Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-154
Wednesday
10 August 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-154 *10 August 1988*

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LD1008130088 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian forces must henceforth not initiate military action but should remain alert and prepared to give an appropriate answer to any kind of enemy "mischief," Iranian Armed Forces Acting Commander in Chief 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in a message broadcast by Tehran radio. While Iran has decided to "create a lasting and comprehensive" peace in the region, he said, the best guarantee of a lasting peace is the power, readiness, and alertness of the Armed Forces.

Contending Iran is facing enemies who cannot be trusted, he warned "they might resort to any aggression and crime during the few days left until the cease-fire date, and even after that."

Tehran radio noted the view of "independent analysts" that the reasons for Iraq's attack on Iran in September 1980 "have not yet been removed and that any optimism about the end of the war is still premature."

Five members of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) subsequently arrived in Tehran to supervise the establishment of the cease-fire and to prepare the ground for the arrival of the other UNIIMOG members, IRNA noted. Five other UNIIMOG members also arrived in Baghdad, WAKH disclosed.

Monitored Iraq media were not observed to carry any military communiques or other war reportage 9 August. Iraqi envoys conveyed messages on the war to the leaders of Algeria, Tunisia, the PDRY, and Libya, according to reports by INA and Libya's Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio.

Among foreign reaction welcoming the cease-fire announcement, a Turkish Foreign Ministry statement cited by Ankara radio expressed Turkey's willingness to "extend every possible assistance" during the peace negotiations.

Lebanon

Three people were killed and 12 injured in the 9 August Israeli air raid on Palestinian positions east of Sidon, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon disclosed. Israeli planes targeted "civilian and military areas" in 3 and ½ hours of raids that damaged a Fatah camp and a Palestinian radio station, Beirut radio reported.

A Palestinian source told Voice of Lebanon radio that 24 "heavy bombs" hit the area surrounding the Palestinian radio station but did not damage its transmitter.

The radio was silenced by the raid but will resume broadcasts after two destroyed antennas are replaced, according to a Palestinian source cited by AFP.

Shi'ite cleric Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah's office issued a statement denying reports he met with a German journalist who is "acting as an intermediary" to secure the release of hostage Rudolf Cordes, AL-SAFIR reported. A "scholar" in Fadlallah's office stated the cleric "is not concerned with this issue," according to an AFP report cited by the paper.

Commenting on the situation in Lebanon, Fadlallah said he expects a "U.S. onslaught" that will "sway the majority" of Lebanese politicians, Radio Free Lebanon revealed.

Israel

Territories—A 14-year-old Arab boy was killed and over a dozen other people were wounded during clashes with IDF soldiers in several areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to Jerusalem radio. The IDF does not take responsibility for the boy's death because an investigation shows that he was not struck by a bullet, the radio noted.

Relations With Egypt—Commenting on the results of his talks in Cairo on the Tabah issue, Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office, stated the two sides were unable to set a date for further meetings and noted the Israeli leadership must now decide whether there is room to continue the negotiations.

Speaking in an interview with Jerusalem radio, Ben Aharon said there was "a certain softening" in the Egyptian position during the 2d day of the talks, but he complained progress was "hindered" by the Egyptians discussing every issue on the premise of Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah. A related radio report disclosed the Egyptians are ready to discuss "special arrangements" for Israelis in Tabah only after Israel pledges to acknowledge Egyptian sovereignty over the disputed area.

An Egyptian delegation member cited by MENA confirmed the negotiations ended without agreement and without a date being set for further talks. While noting that "no progress" was made toward a solution of the Tabah issue outside the framework of the arbitration process, Cairo radio quoted Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's remark that the arbitration process is going in Egypt's favor.

During his visit to Cairo, Ben Aharon gave 'Abd al-Majid a message from Shamir proposing a meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

Murphy Tour

U.S. envoy Richard Murphy met with Jordan's King Husayn and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i to discuss regional issues, Amman radio stated. Murphy briefed the leaders on U.S. talks with the USSR on holding an international peace conference and on developments in the Gulf war and Afghanistan, the radio added. In a departure statement, Murphy praised Jordan's "constant efforts" in the peace process, the radio noted.

Murphy subsequently traveled to Egypt, where he met with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid to discuss the peace process "in light of ongoing efforts," according to Cairo radio. Commenting on the talks, 'Abd al-Majid noted Egypt has made "several important contacts" recently to promote peace, MENA reported.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated Egyptian efforts to arrange a meeting in Cairo between Murphy and "Palestinian figures" have not "achieved any progress," according to WAKH. Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf denied Murphy will meet any "Palestinian notables" who belong to or are "close to" the PLO, Radio Monte Carlo indicated.

In a Jerusalem radio interview, Israeli official Ben-Aharon welcomed the cancellation of the planned meeting between Murphy and Palestinian representatives, contending the PLO has tried "several times" to "trick" Murphy into meeting PLO officials but each time encountered "staunch U.S. opposition."

PLO Affairs

A Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio commentary warned that the PLO's "enemies" have mobilized all their "forces," "alliances," and means of "exhaustion and pressure," including "their attempts to cripple us by making us assume all the burdens." However, the PLO has the strength to assume its "burdens" and meet "all the requirements," the radio said, and world public opinion now realizes that others who used to "exploit" the Palestinian cause can neither benefit nor harm it.

The commentary did not directly refer to Jordan's measures, but it castigated the "demented and rancorous stand" adopted by the "traitors" of the Syrian regime.

On a more upbeat note, PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih told Amman's SAWT AL-SHA'B that King Husayn's measures are meant to give "momentum" to the PLO and will have a "positive impact" on the Palestinian uprising.

PFLP leader George Habash contended the Jordanian measures are an attempt to lay "new burdens" on the PLO, Radio Monte Carlo noted, but said this is a "positive outcome" of the uprising and the PLO must accept the challenge. Habash also said the PFLP will henceforth be willing to support the formation of a government-in-exile.

In contrast, a PFLP-GC statement carried by the clandestine Al-Quds radio expressed opposition to the establishment of a government-in-exile.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi declared a 6-month state of emergency, saying the government needed "emergency powers" to deal with the situation caused by heavy flooding, MAP reported. An Irrigation Ministry official cited by MENA warned that "all signs" point to more rain, with peak flooding to come in the next 3 weeks.

Khartoum has been without electricity for 5 days and is suffering from a bread shortage, with food prices at a "record high," MENA added. The Sudanese charge in Egypt said there have been no radio broadcasts from Sudan since the flooding began, according to Cairo radio.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Says No Progress on Murphy Talks

JN0908164088 Manama WAKH in English 1607 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Doha, Aug 9 (GNA)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that he expressed his appreciation to H.H. the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani for the supportive stand of the State of Qatar towards the Palestinian people's cause.

In statements before leaving Doha at the end of a short visit. 'Arafat said that he discussed with h.h. the amir the present situation in the Arab region and the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territory. They also exchanged views on the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran which ushers in a new era in the region that will reflect positively on the situation in the Gulf region and on the Palestinian cause.

In a statement to QATARI NEWS AGENCY, 'Arafat disclosed that Egyptian efforts to hold a meeting in Cairo between the American Middle East envoy Richard Murphy and Palestinian figures have not achieved any progress.

The PLO leader said that the Palestine National Council PNC will meet next month to discuss the recent Jordanian decision cutting legal and administrative links with the Israeli occupied West Bank.

Salah Khalaf Denies Palestinians To Meet Murphy

JN0908103688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] today categorically denied reports that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy will meet in Cairo with Palestinian notables who are either PLO members or close to the PLO.

According to Abu Iyad, it was Egypt which proposed hosting a Palestinian-U.S. meeting on its land. He added the PLO proposed specific names of Palestinian notables from the occupied territories and abroad, but this proposal was rejected by Murphy.

U.S. sources stressed yesterday that Hanna Sinyurah and Fayiz Abu Rahmah, two Palestinians close to the PLO, will meet with Murphy in Cairo, along with two other Palestinians holding U.S. citizenship.

Further Reaction to Jordanian W. Bank Measures

No 'Prior Notification'

NC0908171388 Paris AFP in English 1701 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Nicosia, Aug 9 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization is capable of assuming its responsibilities for Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in statements published Tuesday.

The PLO chief also said that discussions on the creation of a Palestinian government-in-exile will figure on the agenda of a forthcoming emergency meeting of the Palestine National Council, or parliament-in-exile.

"The PLO structure can absorb anything provided it has the means and I would like to reassure my people in the occupied territory that we will assume our responsibilities," he told the London-based AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT received in Nicosia.

The response follows a decision by Jordan's King Husayn to sever all administrative and legal ties with the West Bank, which was part of Jordan from 1950 until 1967 when Israel occupied it.

Mr. 'Arafat also denied King Husayn's statements that the PLO was given prior notification of the Jordanian decision. King Husayn had said he broke links with the West Bank in compliance with a PLO request.

"It wasn't a total surprise, since Jordanian officials had been discussing it behind the scenes and had leaked it to the press, but the PLO was not consulted and was not officially notified, although it is the leading player," Mr. 'Arafat said.

Amman broke July 31 with the West Bank and its 900,000 Jordanian passport holders in a series of moves including dissolution of Jordan's Lower House of Parliament which has 30 Palestinian deputies from the West Bank and the scrapping of a 1.4-billion-dollar development project for the occupied territories.

King Husayn told a news conference in Amman that the 900,000 Jordanian passport holders could keep their documents until a Palestinian state had been set up.

Asked how the PLO would deal with the passport dilemma, Mr. 'Arafat replied: "There is an alternative, approved by the Arab League's foreign ministers, and it means issuance of Palestinian passports under Arab League guarantees."

But Mr. 'Arafat said the plan had been shelved until all Arab states fully approve of and recognize the validity of the passports. [passage omitted]

Decision Called 'Great Boost'

JN0908163088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Fatah Central Committee member, announced in Tunis today that the PLO is considering all the possibilities of a declaration of Palestinian national rights, including the formation of a government-in-exile and announcing an independent state following the Jordanian monarch's measure to completely dissociate Jordan from previous responsibilities toward the West Bank. Abu Iyad said King Husayn's decision gave a great boost to the PLO as the

Palestinian people's representative, adding that nobody can now hide behind the so-called Jordanian option or ask to whom the Palestinian territory belongs.

PNC Speaker Comments

JN0908084888 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Aug 88 p 2

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has stated that His Majesty King Husayn's announcement that bridges will remain open and passports will remain with the West Bank inhabitants was clear evidence that Jordan continues to consider itself as occupying an excellent primary position and status vis-a-vis Palestine and the Palestine question and that Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn cannot relinquish what is dictated by the supreme interest of the Palestine question and the Palestinian Arab people.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Shaykh al-Sa'ih added: We greatly appreciate this step and hope there will be more steps that strengthen the inseparable historical relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

Regarding the impact of the recent Jordanian measures and steps on the valiant Palestinian uprising, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: It was clearly understood from His Majesty King Husayn's press conference that these measures are meant to give momentum to the PLO and tell Israel and the United States that they have no other alternative but negotiate or recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. Within this context, these measures will not have any negative impact on the uprising. On the contrary, they will have a positive impact.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih said a committee comprising jurists, politicians, and administrators has been formed and will meet in Tunis on 10 August to study the recent Jordanian measures which disengaged the legal and administrative links with the West Bank and to decide what the Palestinan leadership should do. He stressed that such steps should not be assessed hurriedly.

Regarding the establishment of a Palestinian state or a government-in-exile, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said the need for a Palestinian state or a government-in-exile hinges upon the meetings that will be held between the Palestinian delegation and Jordanian officials during the delegation's anticipated visit. In light of these meetings and if the supreme Palestinian interest, which Jordan is eager to safeguard as much as we do, requires that a Palestinian state or a government-in-exile be established, we will certainly establish it after consulting our Arab brothers and friends. Once we are convinced of the need to establish the government or state, we will establish quickly it. But if the matter requires patience, we will wait.

He said: We, Jordanians and Palestinians, have a common denominator aimed at serving the supreme interest of the Arab nation and the Palestine question. He expressed his optimism about the Jordanian-Palestinian meeting that will be held in Amman during the next 2 days.

On the document distributed in the West Bank signed by Faysal al-Husayni and carried by Israeli news media, Shaykh al-Sa'ih sees that since the document was announced by an Israeli source, this does not indicate the document is correct. He said assuming that the document is correct, this does not mean that it is a document in the true sense of the word and that it is approved, but could be a personal opinion by Faysal al-Husayni or other Palestinians. He said every man has the right to express the opinion he deems appropriate. However, he continued, this opinion does not necessarily oblige others nor meant to be a plan to be followed or an opinion to be agreed over.

He added: Therefore, the issue depends on two factors; first, to verify who issued the document and, second, to verify its contents to be able to judge it. He said this because it is unacceptable to accept an Israeli source regarding the issuance and contents of this document as this source is an unreliable enemy source.

On whether there is mediation by Romanian President Ceausescu between the PLO and Israel in order to hold direct negotiations and establish a Palestinian state, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: I cannot go into details. The Romanian president has views which he may consider useful and appropriate for reaching a solution to the Palestine question. This is because the valiant uprising has given the Palestine question a strong boost and put it at the top of international priorities. The uprising also made finding a final solution to this question a necessity to enable our Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and for the region to enjoy peace and security.

Al-Sa'ih continued: The Romanian president may have views, but these views are discussed in light of PNC resolutions and within the framework of the Palestinian and Arab interest. I cannot give an opinion about these views which are still unclear to us.

Regarding the PLO running of affairs of Palestinian institutions in the West Bank and supervising them in light of Jordan's decision to disengage legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: The Palestinian institutions in the occupied land will not be cancelled. The employees who were running these institutions may continue to do so even after they have been pensioned off by Jordan. Moreover, this issue has to be solved through Jordanian-Palestinian talks during the expected meeting which will be held in Amman soon.

On the convocation of a PNC session Shaykh al-Sa'ih said the PNC will hold an extraordinary meeting. He said topics to be discussed during the meeting must be specified. He said the general opinion is that discussion

during this meeting be confined to the valiant uprising and means to escalate it and support it to continue its mission until it achieves its objectives. He said discussion will also deal with developments in the Palestinian arena. Afterward, members can expand discussion within this framework, without departing from it.

On the trend toward reducing the number of PNC members, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said this is something which has nothing to do with the coming extraordinary session. However, he said, a committee has been formed . He said this committee discussed this issue and there were two opinions; one calling for reducing the number and another calling for maintaining the current number. He said the committee presented a report to the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC Presidency. He said the Executive Committee and the Presidency will meet to decide what they deem appropriate. However, he said, no decision has been adopted in this regard.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih praised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's pan-Arab stands. He affirmed that PLO relations with Iraq are distinguished and that Iraq's stands are praiseworthy. He said all PNC sessions and resolutions always address thanks and appreciation for the brave Iraqi leadership, which has and continues to extend material and moral support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle.

He said ending the Iraq-Iran war will be a prelude for resolving the Palestine question and securing the Palestinian people's rights. He said the end of this war is surely a victory for brotherly Iraq, the entire Arab nation, and the central cause.

Concluding his statement, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said: I call on the brothers in the West Bank and Gaza in their blessed uprising to continue struggle and to remain loving brothers without allowing any penetration of their ranks. He said total Arab unity should remain our constant objective. He said: We and the Jordanian people cannot be separated because our relations with the Jordanian people are distinguished and will continue to be distinguished, historical, geographical, and brotherly. Therefore, we have to take into consideration that our acts and statements will be guided by these brotherly, distinguished relations between the two peoples, as well as by the supreme interest of the Palestine question and the Arab nation.

Habash Welcomes 'Challenge'

JN0908131888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] At a press conference this morning, PFLP leader Dr George Habash welcomed the recent Jordanian measures and regarded them as a positive outcome and a triumph of the Palestinian uprising. At the same time, Habash questioned Jordan's aim, saying the Jordanian moves are aimed at adding new burdens to those of the PLO so the PLO would be forced to look for a formula of partnership with Jordan concerning the Palestinian issue. Habash added: Therefore, we ask the PLO to accept this challenge and take all the necesary measures to assume its responsibilities.

As for establishing a Palestinian national government-in-exile, Habash said: Until this moment we have never thought of this because we still need a long period of time to realize victory. However, Habash wondered about the sort of laws that would govern the life of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, saying this situation calls for considering the issue of a government-in-exile because of the required laws to govern the life of the citizens. He said the PFLP will participate in the PLO leadership's meeting this month and will not hesitate to agree to establishing a Palestinian government if this helps in meeting the Jordanian challenge, as he put it.

As for the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation, Dr Habash said he sees no means of restoring these relations. He contended there are loopholes in the Palestinian link aimed at exploiting the uprising politically through giving concessions. The latest example is the so-called Abu Sharif document. Habash said the uprising lacks an Arab shield which could help it realize its aims.

DFLP on 'Fruitful Dialogue'

NC0908172088 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The DFLP has issued a statement on the occasion of the approaching 9th month of the uprising. In its statement, the Front paid tribute to the heroic Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland.

In its statement, the Front said Jordan's decision to break its links with the West Bank consecrates the PLO's political and legal responsibility over the West Bank and the entire occupied Palestinian territories. The decision also embodies a recognition of the soleness and independence of the Palestinian representation.

The statement further added these measures will open the door for a fruitful dialogue between Jordan and the PLO in a bid to reformulate Jordanian-Palestinian relations on the basis of fraternity, equality, and solidarity against the common enemy.

PFLP-GC Issues Statement

JN0908180588 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Aug 88

["Political statement" issued by the Political Bureau of the PFLP-GC—date not given]

[Text] The PFLP-GC Political Bureau has discussed the Jordanian Government's measure to disengage the two banks of the River Jordan which was announced on 31 July 1988 and has adopted the following views:

1. While adhering to and believing in Arab unity, which is the destiny of this nation and the symbol of its strength and liberation, the significance of highlighting the Palestinian Arab image, particularly at this stage, makes the crystallization of the Palestinian Arab identity one of the leading achievements of our revolution and of our people's uprising in Palestine.

This achievement has been realized thanks to the great sacrifices of our heroic people and their insistence on continuing their popular revolution which is now beginning its 9th month with firmness and strength and with the necessary determination to realize our national aims of return, self-determination, and national independence.

2. This great achievement aborts all the plans of an alternative homeland and confirms that Palestine belongs to the Palestinians and that the only option is the Palestinian Arab option.

3. This achievement ends attempts at participating in representing the Palestinian Arab people or acting on their behalf as well as attempts at circumventing their inalienable national rights.

The PFLP-GC Political Bureau discussed the looming threats aimed at striking at the gains of our people's overwhelming uprising in Palestine. The Political Bureau warns against the following:

1. Settlement operations which pave the way for the American-Zionist solutions and lead to obliterating our Palestinian people's identity and destroying their cohesion and unity.

2. Attempts at forcing a Palestinian Camp David by destroying some of the pillars of our people's steadfastness in the occupied homeland, exploiting the difficult living conditions, and succumbing to the autonomy plot, thus destroying our people's great uprising and all of its achievements on Palestinian, Arab, and international levels.

The Political Bureau also considered the fact this step has coincided with calls for forming a Palestinian government-in-exile and the intensive U.S. efforts to reach a solution at the expense of the Palestinian people and national rights, something which constitutes one of the most dangerous links in liquidating the Palestinian cause.

The statement said: The calls for establishing a government-in-exile lacks the most important elements, something which will transform such an undertaking into a threat to the march of the Palestinian revolution and the struggle of our people. These important elements are represented by the following:

1. Establishing Palestinian national unity based on national consensus and the principles of the Palestinian Arab struggle.

2. Rectifying ties with the patriotic Arab regimes, led by Syria.

The masses of our Palestinian Arab people in the homeland and in the diaspora as well as all of the revolution's factions and Palestinian national figures are called on to escalate the armed struggle and the continuous fight and to kindle the general uprising in Palestine to foil all the attempts and plots aimed at bypassing our people's sacrifices and forging liquidationist solutions under the guise of attractive slogans.

Concluding its statement, the PFLP-GC Political Bureau said: This achievement by our revolution and uprising should constitute an incentive for our revolution and the PLO to escalate the struggle, close national ranks, adhere to the national principles, the PLO Charter, the PNC resolutions, and the unanimous Palestinian decisions, and realize Palestinian national unity on political and organizational bases hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and the liquidationist solutions.

PLO Representative Denies 'Abbas Nomination

AU0908085388 Rome ANSA English 0811 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] (ANSA) Rome [No date as received]—The Palestinian Liberation Organization's representative in Rome, Nimr Hammad, has denied rumors that Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] has been named head of the PLO's military forces, as reported Sunday by the weekly U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT.

In statements to the Italian news agency, ANSA, Hammad said the report "is totally false, in form and content,' adding that "the Al-'Abbas who is going to Jordan as Palestinian head of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is Mahmud 'Abbas, one of the three members of the Al-Fatah Executive Committee".

"Mahmud 'Abbas had nothing to do with Abu al-'Abbas, and whoever released the news item surely did so with bad intentions", he said.

Commenting on the Jordanian decision to give up administrative and legal rights to the West Bank, Hammad said: "The United States should give up on the idea of a peace plan by (U.S. Secretary of State George) Shultz. I hope that Italy and the other EC countries will be able to back the Palestinian cause and help the U.S. Administration out of its intransigent position".

South Asian Regional Affairs

Reportage on SAARC Foreign Ministers Meeting

Pakistan To Oppose Afghan Entry

BK1008080488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Pakistan is to oppose the entry of Afghanistan into the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC . This was stated by the Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in Kathmandu today. Mr Khan is in Nepal to attend the SAARC foreign ministers meeting tomorrow.

India's Menon Speaks

BK0908161988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] India will contribute 1 crore 75 lakh rupees for SAARC activities during the current financial year, 25 lakh rupees more than it contributed last year. This is in addition to India's budgetary contribution for the SAARC Secretariat. This was disclosed by the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon while addressing the SAARC Standing Committee in Kathmandu today. Our Kathmandu correspondent Sushil Chopra reports Mr Menon pointed out that core economic sectors such as trade, industry, money, and finance are still outside the scope of SAARC activities. This must form the foundation of regional cooperation, he added.

Mr Menon said a joint declaration by new members on the one hand and by the present members of the association on the other should be the most convenient method of admitting new members to the SAARC family.

Our correspondent adds the foreign secretaries, who had informal consultations last night, are also considering the report submitted by the Program Committee.

Algeria

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives in Algiers with Message

JN0908122888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1203 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Algiers, 9 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member, first deputy prime minister, and personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, arrived here today.

Taha Yasin Ramadan is carrying a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on developing bilateral relations and the latest developments of the Iraq-Iran war.

Taha Yasin Ramadan was received at the airport by Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, a number of Algerian officials, and the Iraqi Embassy staff in Algiers.

Taha Yasin Ramadan is accompanied by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nuri al-Wayyis.

Met by Bendjedid

JN0908174088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Algiers, 9 Aug (INA)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid received here today Taha Yasin Ramadan, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, RCC member, and first deputy prime minister.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan conveyed a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid containing the president's greetings as well as Iraq's sincere desire to develop bilateral relations and expand them to serve the common objectives of the two fraternal countries and our Arab nation.

The first deputy prime minister briefed the Algerian president on the latest developments of the Iraq-Iran war and the initiative taken by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn which took the form of Iraq's acceptance of the cease-fire. The message also stressed the importance of taking a unified Arab stand toward key Arab issues, as this stand is strong in the face of foriegn conspiracies and aggressions. Also, a unified stand allows the Arabs to benefit from the effective fraternal Arab solidarity and interaction which contributed to opening the doors for a durable and comprehensive peace.

President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy touched on Iraq's peace endeavors since the outbreak of the conflict and also on the heroic stance demonstrated by the sons of Iraq over an 8-year period—the stance which was taken by President Saddam Husayn, the forger of victory and the peace-maker, and which made victory and peace possible.

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid asked Taha Yasin Ramadan to convey his greetings to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and renewed his congratulations on the victories scored by the Iraqis—the victories which opened the doors for the establishment of an honorable peace from a position of strength and triumph. The Algerian president also reiterated Algeria's stance and its support for efforts to bring about a comprehensive and durable peace. He also paid tribute to Iraq's peace endeavors and also to its cooperation with international efforts in this regard. He also praised Iraq's stand toward the international resolutions calling for the establishment of peace over the past 8 years of war and described the initiative taken by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn as a courageous one that confirms Iraq's seriousness regarding the establishment of a lasting and comprehensive peace.

Chadli Bendjedid and Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed the importance of continuing meetings among Arab brethren to hold consultations and coordinate among themselves to strengthen and unify the Arab stance in order to face all the dangers and conspiracies hatched against the Arab nation by its old and new enemies.

The Algerian President renewed his desire and Algeria's eagerness to develop bilateral relations and affirmed his confidence that these relations will be enhanced and expanded in the future.

The meeting was attended by Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Nuri al-Wayyis, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary.

Leaves Algiers 9 Aug

JN0908174588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Algiers, 9 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left Algiers today following a short visit.

During the visit, Taha Yasin Ramadan conveyed a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and briefed him on the latest developments of the Iraq-Iran war and also on ways to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 through direct negotiations. He also briefed the Algerian president on the latest initiative taken by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, Iraq's acceptance of a cease-fire.

Egypt

U.S. Envoy Richard Murphy Arrives in Cairo

NC0908164988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, arrived in Cairo from Amman this afternoon. The visit is part of his tour of the Middle East, during which he has visited Jordan, Syria, and Israel. [passage omitted]

Meets 'Abd al-Majid

NC0908180688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met this evening with Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state, to discuss the developments in the Middle East in light of the ongoing efforts to give an impetus to the peace process.

The U.S. envoy arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit during which he will be received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

'Abd al-Majid on Talks

NC0908194788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1918 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, expressed his pleasure at meeting with Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, here this evening. He added: I believe it is important to exchange views with the United States. He noted that Egypt had made several important contacts recently to promote the prospects for peace.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid expressed his belief in the need for the United States to continue its role to establish peace.

He added: We are quite aware of the difficulties resulting from the developments that have surfaced in the region. However, he noted, we must continue the efforts to achieve peace. He noted that this could take some time, but we are ready to contribute to promoting the peace process. [passage omitted]

Received by Mubarak

NC0810081088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Richard Murphy, assistant U.S. secretary of state, this morning. Attending the meeting were Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and the U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

President Mubarak also received the Tunisian ambassador in Cairo.

'No Progress' in Tabah Negotiations

NC0908145988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with the Israeli delegation to the Tabah negotiations this afternoon. Following the meeting, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid stated that Egypt regards Tabah as part of its national soil and noted that the arbitration process is going in its favor. He expressed hope that the arbitration tribunal's ruling will be in Egypt's favor.

The final round of tripartite negotiations over Tabah were resumed this evening. Our radio correspondent has learned that no progress has been made toward a solution of the Tabah issue outside the framework of the arbitration process.

End Without Agreement

NC0908190088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1848 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—The tripartite negotiations between Egypt, Israel, and the United States over the Tabah issue were concluded this evening without agreement being reached on the points under discussion and without a date being set for the resumption of talks.

This came in a statement by Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, member of the Egyptian delegation to the Tabah negotiations. He said that the talks, which lasted for 2 days, revolved around settling the Tabah issue and discussing the tourist arrangements that would be implemented in the Tabah area after the Arbitration Tribunal issues its ruling.

Dr Nabil al-'Arabi asserted that the current negotiations were not designed to preclude the issuance of the tribunal's ruling nor to postpone it. He stated that the Arbitration Tribunal is continuing its work.

The Israeli delegation to the Tabah negotiations will leave Cairo early tomorrow, Wednesday.

Israeli Delegation Departs

NC0908214488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2133 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—The Israeli delegation to the Tabah talks led by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, left Cairo tonight.

In a predeparture statement Yosi Ben-Aharon said that he discussed with Egyptian officials the Tabah issue, the situation in the Middle East, and relations between the two countries.

At the same time, Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, left Cairo tonight after participating in the Tabah talks.

Ghali 'Welcomes' Angola Cease-Fire Agreement

NC0908164188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed the agreement that has been reached for a cease-fire in Angola as well as the practical steps that could pave the way for the proclamation of the independence of Namibia, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The Egyptian position came in a statement by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, in which he commented on the joint communique that was issued in the wake of the quadripartite talks held between Angola, Cuba, South Africa, and the United States from 2 to 5 August. Dr Ghali stressed that Egypt welcomes the UN secretary general's efforts to achieve the independence of Namibia, a goal which all African peoples are struggling to attain.

Prison Escapees Planned Assassinations

NC0908142388 Cairo MENA in English 1400 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, Aug 9 (MENA)—Investigations into the escape of three members of the Jihad Organisation from Tura prison in July revealed that members of the organisation had planned to carry out a series of political assassinations and explode bombs in important places to prove that the Jihad Organisation was still active.

They intended to carry out this plan before attempting to escape abroad, it was revealed.

Investigations showed that the three escaped convicts were preparing to go abroad using false passports through a country to which travel does not require an entry visa.

One of the three escaped prisoners was killed in a gun battle with security forces yesterday. A second prisoner was arrested together with another member of the organisation who had provided the three escapee prisoners with a hide-out in a Cairo district.

The leader of the group was killed in a gun battle with the police shortly following the escape of the three prisoners.

Further on Investigations

NC0908201788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—The Security Departments' investigations into the escape of three members of the Al-Jihad Organization from the Tura prison in July have revealed some startling details. It has transpired that the organization members were planning to carry out a series of political assassination operations and bombings in some important locations in a bid to prove that the organization is still active. Following these operations, the organization members planned to leave the country, according to investigations. [passage omitted]

Some materials, which the members of the Al-Jihad Organization had intended to use in these operations, have been seized. They include gelignite explosives, 15 meters of combustion fuse, a 16-mm locally made pistol and 10 bullets, a number of plastic combs, 10 packages of firecrackers used as bombs, a handgrenade complete with a detonator, and an automatic weapon. They were all found in an apartment in Hada'iq al-Ma'adi, where escapees Khamis Musallam and Muhammad al-Aswani were staying after they had fled from the apartment in Al-Sharrabiyah.

The State Security Department has also revealed some of the methods the defendants had planned to use in their operations. These methods included seeking help from some forgers to obtain false identity cards, a number of which have been found. For this purpose, the defendents used false names and their beardless pictures to obtain passports. The investigations also revealed that they had planned to carry out a series of terrorist operations, such as assassinations and bombings inside the country, after which they had planned to immediately leave the country. They also had planned to bring in money from certain quarters, whose identities will be disclosed soon. The amount of money in question is estimated at tens of thousands of U.S. dollars and Egyptian pounds.

A responsible source in the State Security Prosecution has stressed that no evidence has as yet been found to conclude that someone inside the prison is involved in the escape of the three inmates. The same source stressed that the new elements and cells of the Al-Jihad Organization, recruited by members who have completed their prison terms or who have been acquitted, are being monitored. [passage omitted]

Investigations also disclosed that all those involved in arranging and implementing the escape from prison and those who covered it up belong to the Al-Jihad Organization only, and not to any other organization. The investigations also pointed to the need to upgrade security measures at prisons, something that has already started. The security source added that all of the citizens whom investigations prove to have provided shelter to the escapees will be interrogated by the prosecutor.

In another development, laboratory tests are being conducted on the pistol seized in the Ghamrah area as well as the automatic weapon found in the Hada'iq al-Ma'adi apartment to determine if they were stolen from the military. [passage omitted]

PLO's Al-Surani on Husayn's Decision, U.S.Talks

NC0908165988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met here today with PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, PLO charge d'affaires in Cairo.

The discussion during the session covered the new developments related to the Palestinian issue in view of King Husayn's decision to sever Jordan's legal and administrative links with the West Bank. The talks also dealt with the extent to which Egyptian diplomacy can contribute in the coming stage to supporting the Palestinian people's rights on the international level.

In a statement following the meeting, Al-Surani praised King Husayn's recent decision to terminate the legal and administrative links between Jordan and the West Bank, describing it as positive. This step, he added, has ended the fallacy of duality in Palestinian representation, and made the Palestinian people the only party entitled to choose whomever they want as their representative. He stressed that they have chosen the PLO.

Al-Surani noted that the PLO welcomes any meeting with any U.S. official at any time provided the organization, and not the U.S. official, selects its representatives to such a meeting. Al-Surani stressed that the only party that represents the Palestinians now is the PLO. He added that it is upon this basis that the United States should reconsider its position toward the PLO if it is really serious in seeking a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian issue. He added that "I think that the United States is serious."

He added that he had discussed with Dr Ghali the PLO's policy in the coming stage both at the Arab and international levels and the role that the Arab countries should play in this respect, so that we might attain the objectives we have been working for for 40 years and so that the Palestinian fragmentation might come to an end.

In another development, Al-Surani said that the announcement of a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran is an excellent step that will have a great impact on the Palestinian issue in particular and the Arab struggle in general.

Columnist Discusses PLO's Jordan Policy

JN0908062088 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 6 Aug 88 p 1,8

["The Political Stand" column by Ibrahim Sa'dah: "The Solution Is Still in the PLO's Hands"]

[Text] It has not been easy for King Husayn to announce the severance of legal and administrative relations between Jordan and the occupied West Bank. It has also not been easy for the Jordanian monarch to adopt the decision that terminated a solid link that continued to exist in spite of 21 years of Israeli occupation of the West Bank. King Husayn adopted such a decision after he exercised patience and suffered much. The Jordanian monarch has suffered from Palestinian differences and from the impotence of the Palestinian organizations to unite their stands. He suffered more than any other Arab leader. The world at large had emphasized that there can be no solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict without Jordan's participation and without a complete agreement between the Jordanians and the Palestinians. As a result of this consensus, King Husayn agreed that Jordan will exert all its efforts to reach such an understanding with the Palestinians in preparation for decisive and primary participation to end the conflict which has lasted more than 40 years.

No one can imagine how much the Jordanian monarch has endured through his insistence on performing his duty and carrying out his role.

In the wake of the 1967 defeat, Jordan became the safe haven for Palestinians escaping from the inferno of the Israeli occupation. Jordan welcomed them on its territory and treated them as Jordanian citizens with the same rights and obligations. However, the new guests imagined that their exile from their land had given them a new land which they can control and on which they can impose their conditions. Instead of planning how to liberate their occupied land, the leaders of the Palestinian organizations planned for the liberation of the tolerant Arab country that embraced them, gave them a home, fed them, and protected them.

The Jordanian people later experienced the darkest period of their lives. The Palestinians continued with their schemes until they succeeded in imposing their armed control on the Jordanian street. Palestinian armed men treated their Jordanian brothers in the same manner that the Israeli occupiers treated the inhabitants of the territories they had occupied. In spite of the Jordanian people's indignation at this behavior, the Jordanian monarch exercised patience to the utmost degree. He believed that the Palestinian brothers would soon reassess their stand, rejected by their Jordanian brothers. The Palestinian armed men thought that the patience of the king of Jordan was the result of his weakness and his acceptance of the fait accompli. At the time, the Jordanian monarch had no alternative other than assuming the responsibility of protecting his people. Therefore, he dealt them a blow that restored things back to normal in spite of the many victims that fell.

That marked the beginning of a new phase of the ever-recurring Palestinian-Jordanian conflict, and rather than busy themselves with their own cause, Palestinian leaders made it a full-time job to launch rhetorical warfare against the Jordanian monarch. They leveled all kinds of charges and never missed a chance to impugn his patriotic and Arab credentials. Only after intervention by Arab heads of state did this war cease and

harmony and accord between the Palestinians and Jordanians return. With his long and bitter experience, King Husayn decided to shoulder onerous responsibilities toward a solution of the Palestinian question with a key role for leaders and spokesman of the Palestinian people.

On 15 March 1972, King Husayn proposed a federated state under the name of the United Arab Kingdom comprising the West Bank and any other liberated Palestinian territory and Jordan's East Bank. The Jordanian declared then that his proposed federation would materialize only after UN Security Council Resolution No 242, which states the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, is implemented. Nontheless the PLO vehemently rejected the Hashemite proposal, plunging Jordanian-Palestinian relations into a new crisis, with PLO leaders falling over themselves in vilifying the Jordanian regime.

New reconciliation efforts by Arab leaders once again smoothed out differences between the Palestinians and Jordanians. At the 1974 Rabat Arab summit, a formula was devised whereby the identity of the spokesman for the Palestinian people was finally established: The PLO was chosen as the sole, legaitimate representative of the Palestinians in all the occupied land. King Husayn unhesitatingly went along with the unanimous choice, abandoned his ambitious project, amended the Constitution, dissolved parliament, and decreed the formation of a new government under Zayd al-Rifa'i minus the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

The truce of the Jordanian-Palestinian differences saw the signing of the 11 February 1985 Amman agreement, which provided for sending a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiations on the Palestinian issue. As a matter of fact 'Arafat stood his ground, albeit, alas, only briefly, in the face of opposition to the agreement by other Palestinian factions. When the trilateral contacts among the PLO, Jordan, and the United States were bogged down and the Palestinian-Jordanian crisis reared its head again, King Husayn in July 1986 had to explain to Arab public opinion these differences, which had brought understanding between his country and the PLO to a dead end. Twenty-five PLO offices in Amman were ordered closed in the aftermath.

Despite that grave crisis between the PLO and Jordan, the Jordanian monarch did not abandon the occupied West Bank's residents. In that year, King Husayn declared his great, humanitarian plan to promote the West Bank on the economic and social levels by means of a 5-year plan worth $1.3 billion. Rather than appreciate and support this great Jordanian plan, leaders of the Palestinian organizations suprisingly leveled more accusations against this plan than it could endure. Moreover, there recurred the casting of doubts and defamation with much vehemence and rage, as if the Palestinian leaders said to King Husayn: Lift your hand off the Palestinians and their occupied territories!

Out of the Palestinian leaders' desire to remove Jordan from any role it might play in resolving the Palestine question, all disputing Palestinian organizations ignored their differences and agreed at the PNC's 18th conference held in April 1987 on affirming the PLO's leadership and supporting its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat. We long heard songs and articles about the unity that was finally attained among all disputing Palestinian organizations!

In the latest Arab summit held in Algiers in June 1988, King Husayn, out of his care for resolving the Palestine question, asserted that it was not an appropriate time to establish an independent Palestinian state. Meanwhile, the Jordanian monarch also asserted that his country has no ambitions in a single inch of Palestinian territory and that the Jordanian Government does not permit itself to speak, on behalf of the PLO, in the Palestinian people's name after this people chose their sole legitimate representative.

However, the PLO was not convinced of King Husayn's viewpoint. PLO leaders regarded the Jordanian monarch's opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state at present as eagerness to revive his old plan concerning the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian federation!

Certainly, King Husayn is no longer able to endure such continued accusations by the leaders of the Palestinian organizations. Difficulty to endure these accusations is further increased whenever King Husayn learns more about what is done and said in the occupied West Bank, particularly following the Palestinian people's uprising in all occupied territories. However, the Jordanian king does not object to the occupied West Bank residents applauding Yasir 'Arafat's leadership of the Palestinian march to liberate Palestinian territory because it is their right and also the right of the man who represents them and speaks in their name.

However, at the same time, it is not their right to chant slogans against King Husayn and cast doubts on his great role, which he plays as his fate and duty and which aims to resolve their own cause and help them regain their territory. Although the Jordanian monarch is characterized by much patience and although he forgives those who have harmed him, he will not forget the referendum held in the occupied West Bank 2 years ago. This referendum showed that 93 percent of residents support the PLO, that 71 percent support Yasir 'Arafat's leadership, and that only 3 percent support King Husayn's policy and steps!

What can one expect the Jordanian monarch to do when faced with all these obstacles from the Palestinian side? No matter how tolerant and forbearing King Husayn is, how else could he act when he hears with his own ears that his stands are dubious, that his patriotism is questioned, and that every proposal he puts forth is rejected? The man has shown he has self-respect, and more than that, he safeguarded his country's dignity when he

announced the severance of legal and administrative relations with the occupied West Bank, leaving these relations to the PLO since it enjoys the support and trust of 93 percent of the West Bank population.

As I said earlier, this decision has not been easy for the Jordanian monarch. This decision, apart from its many positive aspects, also has many negative aspects. Many political commentators and analysts have described the Jordanian king's decision as constituting a historical setback for the Middle East crisis and complicating it. We heard strange and surprising comments on King Husayn's decision.

The PLO was flabbergasted when this decision was made public. Yasir 'Arafat canceled his expected visit to the Jordanian capital. The PLO leaders held successive meetings. Calculated statements, neither denouncing nor supporting, were made taking into consideration new factors and the unknown, whose features as yet have not been outlined.

The PLO leaders' stand on the decision was surprising. The PLO leaders appeared as if they were surprised by this decision and had not expected it. The PLO leaders have been asking King Husayn over the past years to take his hands off the Palestinian people and the Palestinian territories. But when finally he responded to their historical demand, which precedes their desire to resolve their basic cause, they raised a hue and cry and restrained themselves temporarily in preparation for pouring their wrath, rancor, and dismay at the decision and the one who made it. King Husayn was supposed to listen to all these accusations by the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative without paying any attention to them. He was also supposed to pursue his efforts and devote most of his time and the resources of his country for the sake of a cause whose owners refuse to listen to his wise ideas on how to settle it. Or was the king of Jordan supposed to impose himself on a people who reject him and to assist an organization that has the legitimacy of making decisions but that is apprehensive of his assistance?

The same fears of the PLO were also felt by the residents of the occupied West Bank. PLO fears arose from the fact that King Husayn's decision has forced the PLO to shoulder responsibilities that it cannot abandon or deny. Since Jordan decided to disengage relations with the occupied West Bank, that responsibility has moved to the PLO, whether it liked it or not. This means that the PLO should make a basic shift in its programs, policy, positions, and priorities. There are approximately 800,000 Palestinians in the West Bank. They have the right to be represented by the PLO, which should secure the minimum level of honorable life for them through the huge financial aid it has been receiving from all the Arab countries for many years—aid which no one knows how it is spent or used.

The Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza have launched their great uprising against the Israeli occupation without any plan from any side. This uprising has destroyed the Israeli occupier's deep self-confidence. The Palestinian people are required to sacrifice the blood of their youths, children, and women as fuel for the great uprising. The PLO is now required to direct its assistance toward its people in the occupied territories and to stop taking pride in the uprising in the media, songs, plays, and movies. It should support them in humanitarian, educational, health, social, and military areas.

It seems that the residents of the West Bank have no great confidence that the PLO assistance, as expected by the Arab world, may be extended to them. Amazement, fear, and expectation are obvious in questions posed by the West Bank residents following the disengagement of the legal and administrative relationship between Jordan and the West Bank. The newspaper AL-QUDS, the most widely circulated Arabic newspaper in the occupied territories, has expressed this fear and anxiety in its editorial: What will happen now? Will the bridges with Jordan remain open? Can our people continue to export their products to Jordan? Will the Jordanian Government continue to pay allocations to schools, institutions, and teachers? Will it end its assistance to the religious, rehabilitation, and production centers? Will the Jordanian Government stop issuance of passports to West Bank residents, and will it refuse to renew passports of those who received these passports after the severance of these relations?

After scores of these questions expressing the anxiety and fear of the West Bank residents, 90 percent of whom placed confidence in the PLO leadership, the newspaper concluded its article by appealing to all the Arab peoples and governments to quickly assist the residents of the occupied territories after Jordan announced that it would end its assistance to them. It is noteworthy that the writer of the article did not appeal to the PLO, which is responsible for the Palestinian people, as if he is confident that such an appeal would not be welcomed by the PLO leaders, who live in luxurious apartments in the most beautiful and expensive capitals, from which they issue their statements of rejection, doubt, and condemnation of those who object their views or make proposals.

The other Palestinian newspaper AL-NAHAR was quite merciful toward the PLO. In its commentary it said: It is difficult for the PLO to practice its legal and administrative supervision after the Jordanian withdrawal and severence of ties with the West Bank, while the latter is under occupation. As for the newspaper AL-FAJR—the mouthpiece of the PLO in the occupied territories—it attacked the Jordanian decision and accused the Jordanian regime not only of disengaging ties with the West Bank, but also of dangerously seeking to divide the Palestinian people.

The PLO, which is now facing a very difficult situation, could have saved itself a great deal of problems had it heeded the advice of its faithful friends and distanced itself from the pressure of the destroyers and those who benefit from the stagnant situation. So many people advised the PLO a thousand times that there is no solution to the cause except through a firm understanding and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian decision. So many also planned their moves on the basis of this joint understanding. They were all surprised by the continuous eruption of disagreements between Amman and the PLO leadership.

King Husayn and his people have put up with much more than any human being could accept. When Jordan—government and people—agreed to fulfill the desires of the Palestinian people's spokesman and leave all decisions dealing with the Palestine question to the Palestinians, this official and legal spokesman had fits of fear and panic.

The future of the cause looks bleak and dark. But there is still a ray of hope lying in the Jordanian monarch's affirmation that disengaging legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, in accordance with the desires of the PLO, does not mean that Jordan is relinquishing its pan-Arab responsibilities or withdrawing from participating in a just solution pleasing all parties.

The ball is now in the PLO's court. Is it going to learn from its past mistakes and open a new page in its policies, in which it unifies its goals and opinions as a start to a serious and realistic move which does not change with the changing whims and opinions?

Without this stock-taking position, we will not get anywhere. Without Jordanian Palestinian agreement the Palestinian cause will not move one step forward. Unless, God willing, the PLO has another unannounced policy. Now is the time to reveal it.

Libya

Killing of 20 African Detainees Denied

LD0908184988 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1710 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, 9 Aug (JANA)—AFP yesterday carried a report which said, citing an official source in Ndjamena, that 20 African detainees, in particular Chadians living in Libya, had been killed by Libyan forces after they rebelled against forceful conscription into what it called the Islamic Legion and were interned in one of the prisons.

The JANA local affairs editor has denied the whole report and stressed that Africans living in the Great Jamahiriyah, the land of the great green document on human rights, enjoy their full rights and live a quiet life.

The editor added that the report is absolutely contrary to the truth...and that all that happened was that legal measures were adopted recently against some citizens of a number of African countries who infiltrated across the border of the Great Jamahiriyah without documents or going through official procedures. They were rounded up in accordance with the legal procedures normally followed. It is the sovereign right of every state to regulate entries and exits into and out of its territories by following the normal legal channels.

The editor then pointed out that such measures have been adopted by many states in the past and stressed that the competent authorities took the step of rounding up all those who had infiltrated across the border without official documents or going through procedures after informing their countries' embassies of this and prior to taking any action.... This was done through an ordinary legal procedure as a preliminary step before the completion of the remaining legal procedures.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Iraq's Sa'dun Shakir

LD0908234588 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Sa'dun Shakir, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council and special envoy of President Saddam Husayn. During the meeting the Iraqi envoy handed the brother leader a message from President Saddam Husayn. The message explains Iraq's insistence on holding direct talks with the aim of putting a final end to the war and of achieving lasting peace in the region.

The Iraqi envoy arrived this evening at Benina International Airport.

Saudi Envoy Delivers King Fahd Message

LD1008081888 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution yesterday evening received Shaykh 'Ali Musallam, who conveyed to him a message from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. Shaykh 'Ali Musallam had arrived yesterday at Benina International Airport on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Municipal Revolutionary Committees Set Meetings

LD0908211688 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] JANA has learned that the revolutionary committees' movement in the Great Jamahiriyah will begin convening their revolutionary meetings at municipality level in preparation for their 11th conference. The meetings will be held on the following dates:

1. Benghazi, Bitnan, and Al-Jabal al-Akhdar municipalities—13 August 1988;

2. Khalij al-Tahaddi [Sirt], Kufrah, and (Al-Murgub) municipalities—16 August 1988;

3. Tripoli, Al-Zawiyah, Al-Jabal al-Gharbi, and Al-Nuqat al-Khams municipalities—18 August 1988; and

4. Sabha, Murzuq, and Wadi al-Haya municipalities—21 August 1988.

Mauritania

Ghana's Rawlings Meets With President Taya

AB0908165888 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, now in Nouakchott on an official visit to Mauritania, has held his first round of talks with President Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya at the presidential palace.

Present at the talks were the deputy secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Mohamed ibn Chambas; Tsatsu Tsikata of the PNDC Secretariat; Jack Wilmot of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr Keli Nordor, Ghana's former ambassador to Burkina Faso; and Mr (Mike Hamenu), Ghana's ambassador to Algeria. Earlier, on arrival, Chairman Rawlings was given a 21-gun salute and presented with dates and a calabash full of milk. [passage omitted]

The leader of the revolution was later the guest of honor at a dinner hosted by Colonel Taya. The chairman is expected to visit places of interest and inspect development projects in Mauritania. He will later visit Cape Verde at the invitation of the government of that country.

Former Minister, Ba'thist Party Members Arrested

AB0508135888 Paris AFP in English 1352 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Dakar, Aug 5 (AFP)—A former government minister in Mauritania convicted of a political offence last year is under arrest again, along with members of the clandestine pan-Arab Ba'thist Party, reliable sources arriving in the Senegalese capital from Nouakchott said here Friday [5 August]. The ex-minister is Mohamed Yeddih Ould Breidleil [name and title as received], who held the information portfolio. The sources identified another one of about 10 people in all picked up at the end of July as a teacher, Memed Ould Ahmed [name as received]. He and the former minister were among six people given suspended six-month jail terms last September for belonging to the pro-Iraqi Ba'th movement and "indoctrinating minors".

The arrests, which the Nouakchott authorities have yet to disclose officially, were apparently linked with current negotiations for the setting up of a central trade union body in Mauritania, the sources said. Ba'thists are particularly active in trade union circles there.

Briefs

New Envoys Present Credentials

Nouakchott, 5 Aug (AFP)—Mauritanian President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya yesterday received the credentials of four new ambassadors to Mauritania. They are Abubacar Mohamed of Nigeria; Pierre Barraz of Switzerland; Attar Jabran [spelling of name as received] of Yemen [not further specified]; and Salvador N'Guinda Bayingwa of Burundi. They had individual interviews with Colonel Ould Taya on relations of cooperation between their respective countries and Mauritania. [Text] [*AB0508131988 Paris AFP in French 1130 GMT 5 Aug 88*]

Cocaine, Currency Seized

At the end of the last week customs officials at Nouckchott airport siezed important quantities of hard currency smuggled from the airport. This operation comes after customs had recently seized other quantities of hard currencies smuggled on one of the airliners. Customs officials also disclosed details of another smuggling operation of extreme gravity involving an attempt to import a dangerous type of concentrated cocaine. Some cocaine was confiscated. [Summary] [*LD0708033888 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Aug 88*]

Sudan

Further Reportage on Flood Situation in Khartoum

More Flooding Possible

NC0908152188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Aug (MENA)—Sudanese political circles have expressed their appreciation for and thanks to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian people for the urgent relief aid Egypt has offered to those afflicted by floods and torrential rains in Sudan.

The Sudanese paper AL-USBU' has noted that Egypt always has taken the lead in response to and in cohesion with the fraternal Sudanese people. Egypt was the first to donate relief aid and supplies to Sudan, thus restoring the smile to the faces of thousands of families stricken by floods and torrential rains, the paper said.

Ten Egyptian Hercules transport aircraft loaded with supplies and relief aid for distribution among the flood-hit citizens have arrived here thus far. Major General Bashir 'Abd al-Rahman, the Egyptian military attache here, said that the airlift between Cairo and Khartoum, with one aircraft arriving here every 30 minutes, is carrying relief supplies including tents, foodstuffs, medicine, and clothing.

In the meantime, public utilities in Sudan continue to be disrupted. However, the first contact with the outside world was made this morning. Rescuers are drawing water from streets and squares. The Sudanese Irrigation Ministry has warned the citizens and competent authorities to take all necessary precautions to face the threat posed by the [Nile] flooding. The Nile water level has reached 15.86 meters, thus exceeding the level in 1946. Major General 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Amin, governor of the Northern Province, has appealed to citizens to stay away from the Nile banks. He expects this year's inundation to set a record high unprecedented for dozens of years.

In another development, the Sudanese Irrigation Ministry declared that the water level of the Nile in Khartoum has reached 15.86 meters, which is 24 cm higher than the level recorded on the same day during the 1946 inundation. The ministry noted that a water level of 16.6 meters would bring about a critical situation. Eng Taj al-Sirr Muhammad Ahmad, under secretary at the Irrigation Ministry, has stated that all signs point to a serious inundation this year. He added that it is anticipated that the peak of the flooding will start on 25 August and last until the 1st week of September.

The citizens of Khartoum fear a recurrence of floods, especially because forecasts by the meteorological authority have noted that such a possibility exists. Heavy rain fell on Omdurman yesterday, causing further damage.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese capital is suffering from an acute food crisis. There is a bread shortage in Khartoum as a result of the closure of bakeries. People are subsisting on dates and peanuts, while the major hotels are crammed with well-to-do citizens who go there to have their meals. Food prices are at a record high, with 1 kg of meat worth 30 pounds [not further specified] and a loaf of bread, if any, selling for 3 pounds.

Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Rih, director of Khartoum Hospital, has warned that the health condition in the Sudanese capital could deteriorate, particularly in the coming days. He expressed concern over the possible spread of abdominal diseases, typhoid, cholera, and colds.

It should be noted that members of the Egyptian community in Sudan are all well.

Public Utilities 'Paralyzed'

NC0908195888 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1740 GMT 9 Aug 88

[From the "Newsreel" program: "News report" by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq; recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Reports from Khartoum draw a grim picture of the extent of the tragedy that fraternal Sudan has been experiencing for several days, in the wake of torrential floods and heavy rains to which it has been subjected for the past 4 days. The rains fell in great torrents for extended periods amounting to approximately 14 hours daily at an average rate of 60 millimeters [not further specified]. According to the reports, the current floods are among the most extensive that Sudan has suffered over the last century, with the water rising to more than 2 meters. The floods have totally paralyzed all public utilities in the Sudanese capital. Total darkness reigns in Khartoum at night as a result of the electric power outage. The Omdurman radio station has stopped broadcasting. All features of normal daily life have come to a halt. The strong floods have left approximately 1 million Sudanese people homeless after their houses and possessions were carried away by the torrents. According to estimates, almost a quarter of the Sudanese capital's residents have become homeless. All poor areas surrounding the capital have been obliterated.

The Sudanese Government has decided to declare Khartoum; Kasala, capital of the Eastern Region; Al-Damir, capital of the Northern Region; and Al-Shubayk in eastern Sudan as disaster areas. Sudan has announced the imposition of a 6-month state of emergency to confront the results of this natural catastrophe. What makes the disaster more bitter is that only 2 weeks ago Sudan was suffering from the most extreme drought conditions in the past 4 years.

Khartoum Situation Described

NC0908202688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1740 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Interview with Al-Tayyib Ahmad Nasir, acting charge d'affaires in Cairo, by Cairo radio correspondent 'Ala' al-Miliji on the "Newsreel" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Miliji] We would like Your Excellency to brief us on the current situation in Khartoum.

[Nasir] The facts are that the rains fell very heavily and with great intensity. Some of the rainfall maintained the same intensity for 15 hours. There were floods and torrential streams which demolished numerous houses. Some people drowned and some died when their houses collapsed on them. A number were electrocuted when power cables snapped. Some internal communications broke down. There was an electric power outage. Some small bridges, not the ones over the rivers, but over minor streams, collapsed. All this caused numerous problems. The water level in some areas rose to 1 meter and brought traffic to a halt.

[Al-Miliji] Does this mean that utilities broke down in general?

[Nasir] We can say that they were disrupted to a very great degree.

[Al-Miliji] Mr Ambassador al-Tayyib Nasir, acting charge d'affaires: What are the latest reports you have received on the number of casualties?

[Nasir] The latest reports we have received by way of some newspapers, because there are still no radio broadcasts, put the number of casualties at 11. I imagine, however, that the actual figure is higher. The floods have carried away some children. No final toll has been made because the catastrophe is continuing.

Foreign Minister Interviewed

NC0908221088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2010 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Interview with Tajj al-Sirr Muhammad Salih, minister of state for foreign affairs, by radio correspondent Nadiyah Abu al-Majd at Al-Quddah Presidential Palace in Cairo on the "Dialogue With an Official" program; date not given—recorded]

[Abu al-Majd] Your Excellency: Naturally the Egyptian president, government, and people are following up the situation in Sudan. Can you brief us on the current situation there?

[Salih] The reports we have received from Khartoum indicate that heavy rains fell Thursday evening for more than 13 hours. The rains were so heavy that they could not be drained away by the existing drainage system. The government immediately hastened to face up to the situation. In this context, a decision was made to cut off electricity in view of the collapse of a large number of houses which, according to preliminary reports, numbered approximately 1,000 houses in Khartoum. This also has left around 1 million citizens homeless. Of course, these events did not affect Khartoum alone, although the media highlighted the situation in Khartoum. Other cities also were hit by the flooding of the 'Atbarah River, including Al-Damir and 'Atbarah. The city of Kassala also was affected by the flooding of [word indistinct], as were the cities of Al-Qadarif and [name indistinct] as a result of the flooding of the [name indistinct] River.

In general, all these areas have been declared disaster areas and the situation now needs to be remedied, the water needs to be drained away, and the river banks need to be brought under control so that the flooding will not cause further damage. In the capital, the authorities concerned will try to dispose of the water and bring in pumps to draw the water and help the existing drainage system cope with the situation. The situation, I believe, could be handled and brought under control only if no further rains fall, although we must take into consideration that we expect rains during August and the first half of September. If rain falls in the normal intensity we have been accustomed to, that is for 1 or 2 hours, the situation could be handled and brought under control. Should the rains that fell on Thursday recur, God only knows what the situation will be like.

[Abu al-Majd] This catastrophe has not occurred in Sudan for a long time.

[Salih] We have not heard about such intense rains falling in Sudan recently. The latest such flooding in Sudan occurred in 1946. At that time, there were less cities and a smaller population, but damage was still caused. I believe that should the rains recur, they will cause great damage. It seems that the rainfall on the Ethiopian hills was very heavy, thus indicating that the cycle of drought that has stricken eastern Africa is coming to an end. Scientists expected the drought to continue for 10 years, and this is the 9th year, but I hope the drought is receding.

[Abu al-Majid] We certainly hope so, sir. Regarding the response to Sudan's appeal for relief aid in these circumstances, Egypt took the lead in responding to Sudan's appeal. How do you view Egypt's assistance to Sudan?

[Salih] We were not the least surprised to find Egypt at the top of the list of countries that responded to the appeal. Egypt is not separated from Sudan. Egypt's contribution, which has arrived at an early stage, was great and very much appreciated. I am glad to announce that the number of aircraft shuttling between Cairo and Khartoum has reached 15,000 [as heard] C-130 aircraft. We all know how big these aircraft are and how much they can carry. Their loads include tents, to shelter those who are homeless, and medicine to deal with cases and diseases resulting from the rains and the other circumstances which Sudan is currently going through.

We certainly appreciate this role as a neighbor and fraternal country with which we are linked by ties of kinship, blood, and the Nile River. So we are not surprised by this decision. As for the brothers in the rest of the world, they have made similar gestures. We have learned today from Khartoum that England has started sending supplies. We also learned today through the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo that Finland has asked for permission to send 100,000 tents and some medicine to Sudan. We also have received a response from fraternal Jordan, and, through our embassy in Cairo, from the YAR. [passage omitted]

[Abu al-Majd] An initiative was made during your meeting with Dr 'Abd al-Majid in Cairo. Could Your Excellency disclose the details to us?

[Salih] I was accompanied by Muhammad 'Uthman Mirghani during my meeting with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid. It was a good and fruitful meeting. The meeting was held under the circumstances and effect of the current disaster—the torrential rains—in Sudan. In response to the appeal made by the Republic of Sudan to all countries in the world for aid, Dr 'Abd al-Majid directed all the Egyptian embassies in the various countries of the world to support Sudan's application for aid and support it at the international organizations to obtain the aid possible in order to deal with the current event. We undoubtedly appreciate this noble gesture and consider it a stand expressing the depth of the ties between the two fraternal peoples.

[Abu al-Majd] Undoubtedly, the relations between the two fraternal peoples are strong, as Your Excellency has said. President Mubarak has expressed a deep interest in the situation between Sudan and Ethiopia and exerted efforts to draw their views closer. Could you give us a picture of the situation now?

[Salih] The initiative of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak had, naturally, a great positive effect in pushing the relations between the two neighbors, Sudan and Ethiopia, along a path, the fruits of which we are now reaping. Relations have improved. The brothers in the popular movement are now talking in a more favorable way about peace. There is talk now about the possibility of an unconditional cease-fire and about a request to all the parties to hold a preliminary meeting for preparing the agenda of the projected constitutional conference. We hope it will be convened this year in order to put an end to this murderous war, which has been taking palce for more than 30 years.

[Abu al-Majd] We hope that an end will be put to this war and to the sufferings of Sudan in the various fields. At the end of this interview, we thank Taj al-Sirr Muhammad Salih, minister of state for foreign affairs in the fraternal Republic of Sudan.

[Salih] I thank the fraternal Republic of Egypt, people, and government.

Iraq's Shakir Comments on Visit to Khartoum

NC0908130988 Cairo MENA in English 1235 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, Aug 9 (MENA)—Member of the Iraqi Command Council Sa'dun Shakir explained that the recall of Iraq's ambassador in Khartoum was a temporary measure which did not affect relations between the two countries.

"It is a diplomatic action which will have no repercussions on relations between Iraq and Sudan," he said.

Commenting on his lightning visit to Khartoum yesterday, Shakir said the purpose of the visit was to convey a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn to the head of the Sudan Sovereignty Council in connection with latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war and steps taken to implement Security Council Resolution 598.

Shakir said Iraq was keen to strengthen its relations with Sudan and was willing to send relief to the victims of torrential rains in the Sudan.

Tunisia

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives in Tunis With Message

JN0908190988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Tunis, 9 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, personal envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, RCC member, and first deputy prime minister, arrived here this evening.

In a press statement upon arrival, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the developed relations binding the two states and issues of concern to the Arab nation.

Ramadan added he will exchange views with the Tunisian president on Arab issues so the challenges faced by the fateful Arab causes can be confronted. He also stressed the importance of continuing dialogue and consultations which must be maintained at a higher level at this new phase so that the ability to confront challenges can be enhanced.

Taha Yasin Ramadan paid tribute to the stand taken by Tunisia—president, government, and people—in support of Iraq in its confrontation of challenges. He described this stand as a genuine one that stems from a high sense of responsibility.

The RCC member and the delegation accompanying him were welcomed at the airport by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche; Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh; Mohamed El Jeri, secretary general for the presidency; Abdallah Kallel, secretary general for national defense; and a number of senior officials.

Hedi Baccouche Receives PLO Representative

LD0908165688 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] This afternoon at the government palace in the Casbah, Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche received Mr Hasan Bal'awi, the PLO representative to Tunis.

Kuwait

Iraqi Interior Minister Makes Official Visit

LD0708192288 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 7 Aug, KUNA—Iraqi Interior Minister Samir 'Abd al-Wahhab arrived today on an official visit to Kuwait. His visit will last several days. [passage omitted]

Focuses on Security Issues

LD0808171288 Kuwait KUNA in Engish 1522 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 8 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti-Iraqi talks began here Monday at the conference center, with a special focus on security issues, matters of mutual concern, particularly those relating to Iraqi-Kuwait border demarcation.

The Iraqi side was chaired by Interior Minister Samir 'Abd al-Wahhab, while the Kuwaiti team was headed by Interior Miniser Shaykh Salim al-Sabah.

At the end of the talks, attended by Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait 'Asim Ya'qub and ranking officers at the Kuwaiti Interior Ministry, the two ministers exchanged gifts.

Afterwards, the guest and his accompanying delegation along with Shaykh Salim made an inspection tour of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0908112788 Kuwait KUNA in English 1029 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 9 (KUNA)—The Iraqi Minister of Interior Samir 'Abd al-Wahhab departed the country at noon after an official three day visit.

The minister was seen off at the airport by the Minister of Interior Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim, the Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait 'Asim Ya'qub Yusuf, acting undersecretary at the Ministry of Interior Muhammad Ahmad al-Gabandi [name as received] and other senior officials.

In a departure statement, the minister was quoted as saying that the results of the visit were positive and effective, expressing the will of the Iraqi people to make the Kuwaiti-Iraqi ties an example to be followed by others.

The official added that during the visit he met his highness the amir and his highness the crown prince and prime minister, during which discussions centered on issues concerning the security of both countries.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti Minister of Interior Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim was quoted as saying that the visit centered on bilateral relations between the Interior Ministries in both countries.

The talks focused on particular points emphasizing that "Kuwait's security is part of Iraq's security and visa versa," Shaykh al-Salim said.

The minister said he hoped the two countries would further coordinate their relations till the aspirations of both countries were fulfilled.

Amir Receives Message From Iraqi President

LD0808134988 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1247 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait 8 Aug (KUNA) Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah received today a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The message was delivered by 'Asim Ya'qub Yusuf, the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait, to the Kuwaiti undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, when Mr al-Shahin received him this morning.

Nothing was mentioned about the contents of the message, but it is thought it concerns the initiative to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Mr al-Shahin also received today the ambassadors of the Soviet Union, the PRC, and Algeria and reviewed with them the current consultations in the UN Security Council about ending the Iran-Iraq war.

Amir Congratulates Iran's Khamene'i on Cease-Fire

LD1008110888 Kuwait KUNA in English 1035 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 10 (KUNA)—His higness the amir of Kuwait Wednesday sent a message to the Iranian president 'Ali Khamene'i.

In his letter, his higness congratulated the Iranian president for reaching a ceasefire agreement between Iraq and Iran.

Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin handed the message to the charge d'affaires of the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait during a meeting in the Foreign Ministry.

Last Monday, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir received a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The message was delivered by the Iranian ambassador to the United Arab Emirates who flew to Kuwait.

Libyan Foreign Secretary Arrives on Visit

LD0908145688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1421 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 9 (KUNA)—Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi arrived in Kuwait Tuesday evening on an official visit and was met at the airport by Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah and senior officials at the Foreign Ministry. In an arrival statement, the Libyan official expressed pleasure to be in Kuwait.

Al-Talhi said he is carrying a [words indistinct] from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to h.h. the amir.

He said Libya is gleeful about the ceasefire agreement between Iran and Iraq and their common search for a peaceful settlement of "their differences as we (in Libya) had often said."

The Libyan envoy said Libya believes continuation of the destructive war between Iran and Iraq is beneficial to the enemies of Arabs and Moslems and damaging to their resources.

Meets With Amir

LD1008114488 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] At 0930 this morning, his highness the amir received Eng Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who delivered to his highness a message from his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concerning relations between the two fraternal countries and issues of mutual interest. The meeting was attended by Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Kuwait.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Baghdad, Moscow

LD1008083888 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Aug (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left here today for Baghdad on his way to Moscow within the framework of the Arab seven-member committee's move to follow up the Iraq-Iran war.

Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, will accompany Shaykh Sabah to Moscow after his stopover in Baghdad. Also accompanying Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad are the director of the minister's office, Ambassador 'Abdallah Sa'ud 'Abd al-Razzaq; and the director of the GCC Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Before his departure, Shaykh Sabah told KUNA: "We are entrusted by the seven-member committee to visit Moscow and follow up the committee's efforts on behalf of the Arab League."

Other members of the committee have left for Britain and the United States to follow activities after the cease-fire announcement between Iraq and Iran which seeks to establish a comprehensive and just peace between them.

Official Holiday Declared for Gulf Cease-Fire

LD0908103388 Kuwait KUNA in English 0949 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 9 (KUNA)—Rejoicing the achievement of ceasefire between Iran and Iraq in their eight-year war, the Kuwait Government has declared Thursday Aug 11 as an official holiday all over the country.

Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, state minister for cabinet affairs, said Tuesday that h.h. the amir ordered the one-day holiday following the U.N. announcement Monday on reaching an agreement on a ceasefire and face-to-face talks between Iraq and Iran.

Al-Rashid expressed hope that the agreement would open a new chapter in friendly relations between the Moslem countries.

Local Dailies View Iraqi Peace Initiative

LD0708100688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0910 GMT 7 Aug 88

[text] Kuwait, Aug 7 (KUNA)—Two local dailies Sunday said—while commenting on Iraq's willingness to a ceasefire provided Iran accepts to hold face-to-face talks immediately after the truce—that the new Iraqi decision tests Iran's credibility.

"AL-ANBA'" newspaper said "If the Iranian leaders are really interested in ending the war and establishing a just and honourable peace, they only have to announce frankly and without misgivings their acceptance to start direct negotiations with Iraq after cessation of fire immediately."

Iraq has proved yet again its keenness on establishing peace in the region, the paper emphasized, pointing out that the Iraqi initiative will put an end to any tricks and uncover the Iranian intentions.

"Will Iran announce its acceptance and be convinced that this is the only avenue for co-existence in the region?" AL-ANBA' wondered.

Meanwhile, daily "AL-QABAS" pointed out that the new Iraqi decision "threw the ball to the Iranian court, and placed Tehran before the world to say it is for peace or against."

The new Iraqi initiative is not only a test of Iranian intentions but also uncovers the "role of the big" in the game, it went on saying.

Iraq, backed by the Arabs, wants durable and honourable peace through the "only natural channel-direct negotiations," AL-QABAS asserted.

The Iraqi decision is in harmony with the international drive and with the U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's efforts, the paper said, noting that "there is no justification for the big to play on both ropes."

Cessation of fire cannot be fulfilled without price "..its price is peace", it concluded.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Interviewed on Sanaa Accord

LD0908092788 Kuwait KUNA in English 0835 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 9 (KUNA)—People's Democratic Yemen President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas has described the Sanaa accord signed earlier between the two parts of Yemen as a step forward towards joint unity efforts.

Interviewed by the Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA', Al-'Attas was quoted as saying that the Sanaa accord had paved the way for conclusion of two agreements on joint investment efforts in the promising common area between Ma'rib and Shabwah Provinces as well as free cross-border movement of citizens only by identity cards.

Al-'Attas underlined that implementation of the two agreements which gained overwhelming popular support necessitated continuation of sincere efforts to reach further agreement to consolidate the base of joint work in the interest of the unity of the Yemeni people and the integrity of their land.

Speaking on the emergency Arab summit held in Algiers two months ago, Al-'Attas said the summit had succeeded to come up with a unified resolution which he considered as an achievement of joint Arab work demonstrated by a unified attitude towards strengthening the popular uprising in occupied Palestine.

"But the fighting between the Palestinian factions in Beirut is really regrettable and we regard it as a valuable service for the Zionist enemy and at the same time a harmful blow to the Palestinian uprising," Al-'Attas was quoted as saying.

"We strongly condemn that fighting and those who are behind it," he added.

Asked about the security of the Red Sea, the Yemeni president said security of the Red Sea was the responsibility of the littoral countries only.

"We reject the intervention of any power in this responsibility," he stressed.

Evaluating the outcome of the Moscow superpower summit—particularly concerning the Middle East crisis—he said still there was a big gap between the attitudes of the Soviet Union and the United States on the issue.

"The U.S. attitude biased in favour of the Zionist entity which rejects recognition of the PLO and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination is responsible for that gap in the attitude between Moscow and Washington," Al-'Attas said.

He described his country's relations with Kuwait and other states of the Gulf Cooperation Council as satisfactory.

YSP Secretary General Returns From USSR

EA0508192288 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-'Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, returned to Aden this afternoon after a private visit to the Soviet Union. He was welcomed at Aden International Airport by Brother Salim Salih Mohammad, assistant secretary general and secretary of the Central Committee, members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee, and other ministers.

United Arab Emirates

Thatcher Makes Stopover, Sees Defense Minister

JN0908155488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Dubayy, 9 Aug (WAKH)—British Prime Minister Thatcher stopped over at Dubayy International Airport this afternoon.

Thatcher was received at the airport by UAE Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum and a number of officials.

Discusses Gulf Events, Ties

JN0908201988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Dubayy, 9 Aug (WAKH)—UAE Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum reviewed with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, during her stopover at Dubayy International Airport today the situation in the Gulf region in light of the Iraqi and Iranian decisions regarding the cease-fire.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum also reviewed with Thatcher the aspects of bilateral cooperation and ways to develop it in the interest of the two states.

Margaret Thatcher inspected the British frigate "Manchester"—stationed in the Gulf region—and met with the frigate commander, the commanders of British fleet vessels, and the commanders of the Netherland and Belgian minesweepers stationed in the Gulf.

Minister Calls Iraq Cease-Fire Initiative 'Brave'

JN0808170688 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 8 (GNA)—United Arab Emirates Minister of Information and Culture Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamid today described as "brave" Iraq's initiative announcing its willingness to accept a ceasefire before face-to-face talks with Iran to end the 8 year old Gulf war.

"The UAE and its President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan welcome the brave decision by President Saddam Husayn and consider it an ideal decision for the sake of peace and security in the Arab Gulf region," Shaykh Ahmad told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in a statement.

He added that President Husayn's initiative required an agreement among the leaders of the region in particular, and the Arab states in general, on all ideas of interest to the Gulf region and the Arab nation.

Such an Arab agreement, Shaykh Ahmad went on, would help President Husayn's initiative to start direct talks after a ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran conflict.

First Detachment of UN Observer Team Arrives

JN1008101888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0930 GMT 10 Aug 88

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 10 Aug (WAKH)—The first detachment of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Team arrived in Baghdad last night to begin preparation for the actual implementation of a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. This came in a statement by a Western diplomat here who said that the detachment consists of five military personnel only. [passage omitted]

Various Officials Praise President on Cease-Fire

'Arafat Hails Initiative

JN0708143888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1236 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has described President Saddam Husayn's message as a good initiative. He said that it reaffirms Iraq's honest intentions to reach a real, lasting, and guaranteed peace on the Arab nation's eastern borders.

In a statement to INA here today, 'Arafat said that President Saddam Husayn's new peace initiative does not only represent Iraq, but the entire Arab nation because—in the view of the Palestinian revolution—it is an Iraqi-Palestinian-Arab initiative.

'Arafat also said that Iraq has no desire for any expansion at the expense of any of the neighbors of the Arab nation and that it seeks a just and lasting peace without humiliating any side. He added that Iraq is strongly defending the eastern flank of the Arab nation and since the first moments of the war, Iraq has adopted a firm position in line with the establishment of a lasting, guaranteed, and comprehensive peace.

'Arafat also called for support for Iraq's positive positions toward the UN peace initiatives, including Resolution No 598, the Islamic initiatives, and the nonaligned countries' initiatives. He said that these Iraqi positions stress a real desire to bring about peace. He added that as a result, Iraq has agreed on a cease-fire provided that Iran enters into direct negotiations to crown the glorious Iraqi victories which have decided the battle.

'Arafat then called on the Iranian people in the name of the Palestinian people to exercise pressure to end the war because the enemy, which occupies holy Jerusalem, benefits from the war.

Concluding his statement to INA, 'Arafat said that it is time for the Iranian people to press for peace in the interest of the Arab and Islamic nations.

Kuwaiti Amir Telephones

JN0908092588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received a telephone call from his brother Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah today. During the call, the Kuwaiti amir congratulated the president on the great victory achieved by Iraq—its leadership and people. Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah expressed the Kuwait people's happiness with the great Iraqi victory—a victory for the Arab nation.

President Saddam Husayn thanked his brother Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and wished the fraternal Kuwaiti people and government success and prosperity on the road to the Arab nation's loftiness and awakening.

RCC, Ba'th Members on 'Victory'

JN0908153888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1410 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this morning received those who came to congratulate him on the great victory day.

His excellency the president received Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, RCC members, and comrade members of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

His Excellency President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, also received on this great day Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and defense minister; and members of the Armed Forces General Command.

Hammadi Briefs Officials on President's Message

Addresses Arab Envoys

JN0608181888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1612 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, received the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions in Baghdad this afternoon. The minister explained to them in detail Iraq's positive initiative announced by President Saddam Husayn in his message, which was broadcast this evening and which contains Iraq's readiness to cease fire on the condition that Iran announce its clear and official readiness to enter into direct negotiations with Iraq in order to reach agreement on the implementation of the other paragraphs of the Security Council resolution immediately after the cease-fire.

Sa'dun Hammadi also explained to the heads of the diplomatic missions the considerations that prompted Iraq to launch such a positive initiative to complete the initiatives that Iraq has launched since the Iranian

aggression against Iraq began. The initiative proves Iraq's good will, its real desire to achieve peace, its deep responsibility and interest in the legitimate human desire of our people in Iraq, the Arab nation, and the rest of the world nations to achieve peace as soon as possible and foil any pretext of Iran or any other side to prolong the war and undermine the real peace we want.

Copies of the president's message were delivered to the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions to convey to their governments.

Other Envoys Briefed

JN0608201888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1722 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received separately the Soviet and PRC ambassadors and the British, French, and U.S. charge d'affairs to inform them of Iraq's decision to accept a cease-fire and enter into direct negotiations with Iran in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's message addressed to the Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and the world this evening.

During these meetings, the minister said that by making this decision, Iraq has completely carried out its duty toward the peace process. If Iran agrees on peace we will be pleased, and if the reverse is true, Iran will bear the responsibility for the continuation of the war.

The minister asked the two ambassadors and the charges d'affairs to inform their governments of the Iraqi position in order to play an effective role in preventing any delay in implementing Resolution No 598. The meetings were attended by the Foreign Ministry undersecretary.

President's Message Becomes Official UN Document

JN0808174288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] New York, 8 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn's message to the Iraqi people, the Arab nation, and the world last Saturday was distributed here today. The INA correspondent in New York said the message was adopted as an official document of the UN Security Council.

In his message, President Saddam Husayn announced Iraq's readiness to accept a cease-fire on the condition that Iran officially and unequivocally declares its acceptance of direct negotiations with Iraq immediately following the cease-fire.

Saddam Husayn Chairs RCC, Ba'th Party Meeting

JN0908104688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. Attending the meeting were Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office; the minister of industry and military industrialization; the president's secretary; and the director general of the Regional Secretariat Bureau.

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives

JN0808163888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1522 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Aug (INA)—Takakazu Kuriyama, Japanese deputy foreign minister, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit to Iraq as part of a regional tour. the Japanese official will hold talks with Iraqi officials on bialteral relations. He was received at the airport by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Japanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Delivers Message

JN0908101188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a message from Japanese Prime Minister Naboru Takeshita concerning bilateral relations. Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, received the message when he received Takakazu Kuriyama, Japanese deputy foriegn minister, today.

The vice president briefed the Japanese official on Iraq's stands and efforts to achieve peace since the beginning of the Iranian aggression, and on Iraq's serious and sincere cooperation with regional and international organizations, particularly the United Nations, to reach a lasting and comprehensive peace.

The Japanese deputy foreign minister extended congratulations on his government' behalf on the announcement of a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. He also praised Iraq's stands toward achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace, and its continuous cooperation with the UN Security Council to implement Resolution 598.

Meets With President

JN0908214188 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Takakazu Kuriyama, Japanese deputy foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting which was attended by the Foreign Ministry undesecretary and the Japanese ambassador in Baghdad, they reviewed bilateral relations, ways to develop them, and issues of common interest.

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Phones Khayrallah
JN0908123588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, has received a telephone call from fraternal Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir. The Kuwaiti minister congratulated Khayrallah on the great Iraqi victory and expressed his pride in the valiant Armed Forces' heroic battles in defense of Iraq and the Arab nation.

Interior Minister Returns From Visit to Kuwait
JN0908153388 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 9, INA—Iraqi Minister of Interior Mr Samir 'Abd al-Wahhab returned to Baghdad today from Kuwait at the end of an official visit during which he conveyed greetings to the amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and had talks with senior Kuwaiti officials.

The talks covered security cooperation between Iraq and Kuwait.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Visit to New York
JN0708150288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned from New York today. During the visit, 'Aziz held talks with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and members of the UN Security Council on ways to implement Security Council Resolution No 598.

Officers, NCO's, Soldiers Earn Bravery Medals
JN0908152588 Baghdad INA in English 1507 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug, 9 INA—A high-ranking Iraqi military commander today conferred bravery medals on 206 officers, NCO's and soldiers granted by President Saddam Husayn Husayn in acknowledgement of their heroism and bravery shown in defence of the homeland and the nation's dignity.

The commander of Al-Rashid Forces conferred the medals under 40 Republican Decrees issued in this respect. The honoured combatants belonged to the infantry and armoured al-Rashid Forces.

Dailies View Iraq's 'Spectacular Victory'
JN0908145488 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 9, INA—Iraqi dailies today spoke extensively of the victory realized by Iraq, describing it as not only a military victory but a political, ideological, social and psychological victory as well.

AL-THAWRAH paper, in an editorial entitled "Day of All Days", said "today is the day of a spectacular Iraqi victory...victory of the present and the future realized and built by Iraq under the banner of President Saddam Husayn."

Attributing the Iraqi victory to President Husayn's excellent and successful command and running of military and political battles alike, AL-THAWRAH paper mentioned "by the grace of God and thanks to the insight and deep awareness of President Husayn, added to the steadfastness of Iraqi people and heroism of Iraqi Armed Forces, Iraq has emerged victorious."

People of Iraq, having realized victory and fully defeated an enemy superior to them in terms of population, area and resources, have the right to be proud of themselves in front of the whole world, AL-THAWRAH remarked.

Stressing that Iraq had had no greedy intentions in Iranian territory, AL-THAWRAH said Iraqis did not want to humiliate Iranian peoples and their Armed Forces or interfere in their internal affairs or choices.

The daily once again underlined "Today is the day of Iraq...the day of glroy for Arabs...the day that has crowned heroic acts and victories made by the people of Iraq in the second Al-Qadisiyah.

AL-JUMHURIYAH paper said in this regard "the victory realized by Iraqis is the outcome of their great patience, epic-like steadfastness, sacrifices and heroic fighting under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn."

The paper said "We have achieved a decisive, historical victory...protected Iraq and its sacred land from the evil of invaders, so the people of Iraq have remained dignified on their own land and free to determine their own way in life."

In spite of all plots and designs, AL-JUMHURIYAH noted, the people of Iraq remained in cohesion, rallying strongly and firmly behind President Saddam Husayn.

The people of Iraq lived up to expectations of the Arab Nation, defending it and preventing enemies from harming it even slightly, AL-JUMHURIYAH mentioned.

Iraq has continued to be loyal to noble values that the Arab nation cherished for so long, values of dignity and heroism, AL-JUMHURIYAH noted. It added "Our enemies have put us to test, but we passed the acid test with flying colours."

The daily wondered "Is there a decisive victory more splendid than the one scored by Iraqis, who routed the enemy ideologically, politically and militarily?"

AL-QADISIYAH paper, organ of the Iraqi Defence Ministry, said "Iraq has remained, so does his land and sky...sun and water."

Those who did not want Iraq to remain were disappointed and their dreams were shattered...they swallowed the poison and were cursed by God, people and history, AL-QADISIYAH remarked.

It stressed "here comes the peace that we have wanted for eight years and that they (Iran's rulers) kept turning down...peace that has been made of blood of martyrs and created by shells and shots of Iraqi fighters."

The military paper noted "peace, imposed on the enemy by the will of Iraqis deeply backed by the Arab nation, would not have blossomed had it not been for Saddam Husayn, his patience, strength and painstaking efforts."

AL-'IRAQ paper said that Iraqis, who fought forces of aggressiveness for eight years on behalf of history, "deserve the fruits they are reaping today."

In an editorial carried today, AL-'IRAQ said the people of Iraq, over years of the war, offered big sacrifices in defence of principles, dignity, honour and glory.

Iraqis, the daily mentioned, "have reached the peak of glory after showing steadfastness over eight years in confrontation of a fierce enemy, who mastered means of evil, crime and malice."

The daily said "the Almighty God has been on the side or Iraqis, helping them to score victories and foil their enemy's schemes."

IDF Confirms Attack on Base, Radio Station

TA0908104388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The IDF spokesman announces that this morning Air Force planes attacked a Fatah terrorist base in southern Lebanon. All our aircraft returned safely and the targets were destroyed.

The IDF spokesman's announcement states that the terrorist base, located southeast of Sidon, is the home of a radio station that broadcast propaganda and instigatory material, including instructions for terrorist attacks in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. Arms and ammunition caches were also found at the base and destroyed. This is the end of the IDF spokesman's announcement.

Atmosphere 'Grim' After Talks With 'Abd al-Majid

TA0908155688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] A grim atmosphere prevails over the Israeli delegation to the Tabah talks in the wake of the meeting between Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

Our correspondent in Cairo Aharon Barne'a quotes Egyptian sources as having said that the reason for the meeting was a message Ben-Aharon brought from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in which the latter proposed to meet with President Mubarak.

The second meeting of the Israeli, Egyptian, and U.S. delegations on the issue of Tabah is due to end now. Certain progress was made in the talks this morning, and members of the Israeli delegation believe there has been an openness on the Egyptian side toward Israel's positions. The Israeli delegation will return to Israel this evening.

Friction Develops Within Tabah Delegation

TA0908180488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Voice of Israel reporter Aharon Barne'a, who is in Cairo, says [Israeli delegation member Avraham] Tamir is angry with [delegation head Yosi] Ben-Aharon for holding a meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid without the new Israeli ambassador, Prof Shim'on Shamir. This, apparently, is a breach of protocol. The Egyptian ambassador in Israel, Muhammad Basyuni, was present at the meeting.

Ben-Aharon delivered to 'Abd al-Majid a proposal from Prime Minister Shamir for a summit meeting with Egypt's President Husni Mubarak. Up till now, Mubarak has refused to hold such a meeting, unless Shamir drops his resistance to an international conference on the Middle East

The Israeli delegation to the Tabah talks is due to return home tonight.

Tamir Rejects Offer To Meet With Mubarak

TA0908202888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Egyptians have invited Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir to a meeting with the Egyptian president and his foreign minister. Our correspondent in Cairo Aharon Barne'a learned this from Egyptian sources. Mr Tamir rejected the invitation, however, saying that being a member of the Israeli delegation, he must return to Israel with the delegation tonight. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent further reports that during the Tabah talks, which were concluded tonight, the Egyptians announced they would be ready to discuss special arrangements for Israelis in Tabah only after Israel pledges in advance to acknowledge Egyptian sovereignty.

Japan Protests Detention of Faysal al-Husayni

TA0908160588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Japan has joined the United States, France, the Netherlands, and Austria in their protest over the administrative detention of Faysal al-Husayni. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the charge d'affaires at the Israeli Embassy in Tokyo was summoned to the Japanese Foreign Ministry where he was castigated for the detention as well as for the deportation of eight inhabitants of the territories at the beginning of the month.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that Faysal al-Husayni was detained due to his activities which caused a rise in violence in the territories, and not because of his opinions. Rabin added that he knows nothing about the intention of the State Attorney's Office to press criminal charges against Al-Husayni. Minister Rabin was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Ministry.

Rabin Opposes Trial

TA0908053388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday told reporters that he opposed putting Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni on trial. Rabin would insist that Al-Husayni be held in administrative detention. He explained that Al-Husayni had incited to violence in the

territories and was possibly the PLO's No 1 man there. This was the sole reason for his administrative detention. It had nothing to do with the Palestinian document linked to Al-Husayni.

Foreign Ministry 'Welcomes' Gulf War Cease-Fire

TA0908092488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] This afternoon the Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a communique on the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq War. It says that Israel welcomes the parties' readiness to reach a cease-fire, thereby giving a chance to the possibility of ending the bloodshed and moving toward a solution to the conflict by way of negotiations.

The spokesman added that the 8-year war has shown all the countries in the region that conflicts can only be resolved through peaceful ways. Several international bans were violated in that war, such as massive bombings of civilian populations, the firing of surface-to-surface missiles, violation of freedom of navigation in international passageways, and use of chemical weapons. The spokesman emphasized that now an international effort is required to induce all the countries to adhere once again to acceptable norms and the international conventions forbidding use of chemical weapons.

Civil Administration Closes AL-FAJR for 2 Weeks

TA0908052888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The Civil Administration has issued an order banning distribution of the pro-PLO AL-FAJR newspaper for 2 weeks. The order says that the newspaper, which is printed in East Jerusalem, has disregarded censorship regulations and failed to submit editorials to the censor as required. One of the editorials had called on municipal heads in the territories to resign.

Cairo-Amman Bank Branches To Remain Open

JN0908073588 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Amman-News Agencies—Central Bank Deputy Governor Mahir Shukri denied reports which said that instructions have been issued by the bank to close down the three Cairo-Amman bank branches in the occupied West Bank.

In a statement to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY in Amman, he affirmed that no such instructions were issued by the Central Bank of Jordan. He added that the Cairo-Amman Bank had asked the Central Bank about the subject, and they had stressed the necessity of continuing work despite the new Jordanian measure in the West Bank.

New Branch To Open

TA0908142888 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 8 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Nabulus—Midhat Kan'an, director of the Cairo-Amman Bank branches, yesterday refuted a report in one of the local newspapers to the effect that the governor of the Jordanian Central Bank had asked the Cairo-Amman Bank's management to close its branches in the West Bank in compliance with Jordan's decision to sever the West Bank from Jordan.

Kan'an added that this report was unfounded and that the bank's management had not received any notice in this connection. He said that a new branch of the bank is to be opened next week in Janin. Hence, the bank is continuing to offer all its banking services to West Bank residents.

Polish Folk Dancer Defects in Haifa

TA0908175188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] A member of a Polish dance group that participated in the international folklore festival in Haifa has defected, failing to return to Poland with his troupe. The dancer, (Zigmund Irensho), left a letter at the Haifa Technical College campus festival lodgings saying he decided to stay in Israel. Our correspondent in Haifa Kobi Mandel reports that the dancer is staying in one of Israel's larger cities, probably in Jerusalem. The festival management notified the Haifa police of the defection.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Data on IDF Injuries

TA0908051988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] As has been our custom since the beginning of the unrest in the territories 8 months ago, on the 9th of each month we provide up-to-date statistics and analyses. Since the beginning of the unrest in the territories 8 months ago, 1 IDF soldier was killed and 68 soldiers were injured—4 of them seriously. Senior officers maintain that during this period, the IDF learned all the necessary lessons from the incidents. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

The uprising in the territories was initially characterized by mass violent demonstrations, disturbances, riots, and stone throwings. The IDF was surprised tactically both by the timing, as well as by the volume and the speed of the incidents. Over the past 9 months, the demonstrations periodically assumed different forms. Despite the oft-repeated fear, there has to date not been an organized shift to the use of firearms. Over the past few weeks, a substantial drop has been registered in the number of mass demonstrations and riots.

At present, the activity is typified more by stone throwings, the hurling of Molotov cocktails at vehicles, arson, and attacks with various objects. Today, a senior officer told us, the residents of the territories are raising a lot of questions about many issues. They are confused. While the politicians leading the uprising continue to direct the flock, the fighters are weary.

Rather than searching for ways to handle events after they break out, we are now trying to look ahead and prevent incidents. Following certain failures, the IDF has drawn conclusions. The army is preparing for long-term deployment in more permanent frameworks. The size of the units is smaller and they are more mobile. The IDF presence in the area is just the right amount, and we have resorted to deploying reservists in the area. Thus, only a minority of those who supervise routine security activity in the territories are standing army soldiers. Initially, training programs were definitely affected, but the IDF is now revising its methods and is currently in the midst of closing gaps. The units have resumed normal and routine training schedules.

We also learned lessons in terms of communications, as well as with regard to deviant cases whose incidence may have declined thanks to the media. Over the past few weeks we have noticed a new phenomenon: Reserve officers holding the rank of major or lieutenant general have expressed willingness to do 1 or 2 years of their regular service in the territories.

According to statistics issued by the IDF spokesman, over the past few months one IDF soldier, the late Moshe Kad, was killed after being shot in Bethlehem last March while on guard duty; 4 other soldiers sustained serious injuries, 7 received medium wounds, and 57 others were slightly injured. Most of the injuries to soldiers resulted from Molotov cocktails or stones.

2 Khan Yunus Residents Hurt

TA0908052588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Two Khan Yunus rioters sustained leg injuries from IDF gunfire this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that they tried to interfere with people leaving for work this morning and threw rocks at soldiers. They were evacuated to the hospital.

Disturbances, Curfews 9 Aug

TA0908071288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Rioters in Khan Yunus, located on the southern tip of the Gaza Strip, threw rocks at IDF soldiers and tried to interfere with the departure of workers to Israel. The soldiers used gunfire and injured two rioters.

There is a general strike in the territories this morning. Public transportation is also haphazard. Only a small number of laborers left for work, although the Arab employees of government offices did turn up this morning.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that curfews were imposed this morning on Qabatiyah in Samaria, on Husan in Judaea, and on the Al-Shati' and Al-Burayj refugee camps in the Gaza Strip.

Disturbances in Qalqilyah

TA0908110288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Report by correspondent in the territories Arye Gus]

[Excerpts] There were disturbances in the town of Qalqilyah this morning. The Civil Administration and the military government were consequently forced to impose a curfew on the town. There is also a general strike in Judaea and Samaria today—a routine sight these days. [passage omitted]

Although the general strike is being observed in the territories, Arab sources have reported a rift between the Unified National Command of the Uprising and the Islamic Rejectionist Movement. They point out that whereas the extremist Muslims called for a general strike yesterday and that call remained virtually unheeded, the Unified National Command of the Uprising called for a strike today. The Arab sources explained this difference as resulting from the nationalist elements' refusal to allow the religious fanatics to score achievements at their expense.

The last few days have seen other new phenomena, too, as a result of King Husayn's latest moves. Thus, for example, over the past few days residents of the territories have been pressing to depart for Jordan due to the atmosphere of uncertainty and out of their desire to arrange certain matters before it is too late. This pressure has been so immense that the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration has extended the opening hours on the Jordan River bridges and, for the first time since the uprising broke out in December, the Civil Administration is permitting the inhabitants of the territories to leave directly for Jordan without passing through the Civil Administration offices. They can now simply apply to the post offices, obtain a stamp, pay a certain fee, and leave.

Boy Killed, Curfew Imposed

TA0908120988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] A 14-year-old boy was killed this morning during riots in Qalqilyah. No details are yet available about the circumstances of his death. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF has imposed a curfew on Qalqilyah.

4 Wounded in Rimah

TA0908154188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] In the Ramallah District village of Rimah, three Arab youths were injured by IDF fire after an army unit entered the village to detain suspects. The soldiers, who were attacked with stones, opened fire when their lives became jeopardized.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that today's general strike announced by the leadership of the uprising in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip was accompanied by disturbances. Husayn al-Sawi, 14, was killed during a riot in Qalqilyah. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of his death. The boy's friends snatched his body from the hospital and staged a funeral.

A youth was injured by IDF fire in the village of Silat al-Harithiyah, on the Janin-Megiddo road.

Clashes Noted

TA0908181688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpts] One Arab was killed and at least a dozen wounded in clashes with soldiers throughout Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Arab sources say clashes are continuing this evening in the neighborhoods around Gaza city. This, as Arabs in the territories observed a general strike to mark 9 months since the uprising began in December. Steve Rodan has more:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] In Hebron Arab sources say two local residents were injured by army fire, after Palestinians attacked the municipal building. The Hebron council has long been under pressure to resign, but with the help of the Civil Administration, has refused.

In Tulkarm, Israeli buses and cars were stoned. The army responded and clamped a curfew on the refugee camp. Curfews remain in the Samarian villages of Qabatiyah and Husan.

The Gaza Strip also saw its share of disturbances. They began early in the morning, when Palestinian activists tried to prevent Arab laborers from leaving for their jobs in Israel. In Khan Yunus, two Arabs were injured by army fire. In Al-Mughazi, another Arab was injured. The clashes intensified at nightfall, and Arab sources report clashes in the Al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps, and several neighborhoods of Gaza city. In the Nasir section of Gaza, Arab sources say dozens of residents demonstrated this evening as the soldiers arrested local youngsters suspected of throwing stones. The army arrived and a clash ensued, and local hospitals report dozens of wounded. [end recording]

And this just in: The military investigation into the death of the teenager in Qalqilyah shows he was not struck by a bullet. Military sources told reporter Steve Rodan the army does not take responsibility for his death.

Child, Others Injured

TA0908202188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The disturbances in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip continued throughout the evening, with four people being wounded by IDF fire. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a 9-year-old boy was wounded in the abdomen in the village of Ya'bad, north of Janin. Security forces told our correspondent that a group of residents attacked an IDF observation point. During the disturbances, a soldier was injured by a stone and was treated on the spot. Later, the child Mahmud 'Adnan Abu Baqar was brought to the Nabulus hospital with an abdomen injury.

In another incident, a 19-year-old resident of Janin was wounded in the neighboring refugee camp. In the Jabalyah refugee camp two residents were injured by army fire. Two residents of the Mughazi refugee camp were wounded by army fire this afternoon.

The IDF is continuing the investigation into the circumstances of the Qalqilyah boy's death. A preliminary investigation revealed that he was not killed by gunfire.

Richard Murphy Arrives To Discuss Peace Process

JN0808152088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 aug 88

[Text] Amman—Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, arrived in Amman this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with a number of senior state officials. He was received at the airport by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabih al-Nimr and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Confers With Al-Rifa'i

JN0908115288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, in his office at the Prime Ministry this morning. Murphy briefed the prime minister on the outcome of his talks with his Soviet counterpart Vladimir Polyakov regarding efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference. The talks also dealt with the Iraq-Iran war developments and efforts to reach a cease-fire and begin direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran in order to reach a peaceful settlement of the dispute. The meeting was attended by the foreign minister and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Meets King Husayn

JN0908152388 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, in the Royal Court this afternoon. Murphy briefed his majesty on the results of his talks with his Soviet counterpart Vladimir Polyakov on several international issues, particularly the situation in the Middle East, the efforts to convene the international Middle East peace conference, the Iraq-Iran war developments, and the efforts to achieve a cease-fire between the two countries and to initiate direct negotiations between them to attain a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Murphy also briefed his majesty on the Afghan problem and its settlement.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the royal court, the court minister, the Armed Forces commander in chief, and the foreign minister. The meeting was also attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Makes Departure Statement

JN0908190088 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Amman—Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, expressed gratitude to His Majesty King Husayn for giving him the chance to meet him today and exchange views on regional issues and the peace process.

In a press statement upon his departure from Amman, Murphy said he conveyed to his majesty the appreciation of U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the Secretary of State George Shultz. Murphy said that he listened to an assessment from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan's policy in the region and the Middle East crisis. He added that his majesty stressed the continuation of Jordan's commitment to comprehensive peace in the region. For my part, I stressed to his majesty the U.S. commitment to assist peace efforts and make them more effective, he said.

He said that Jordan showed over the past years and is still showing constant efforts in the peace process in accordance with the internationally-accepted principles that everybody should follow to achieve comprehensive peace. Mr Murphy arrived in Cairo tonight.

Beirut AL-SHIRA' Interviews Al-Khasawinah

NC0908154288 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 8 Aug pp 17-19

[Interview with Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah by AL-SHIRA' correspondent Majidah Sabra in Amman on 31 July]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Sabra] How do you view the 9-month-old uprising inside the occupied territories?

[Al-Khasawinah] [passage omitted] We see the uprising as a living example of the Palestinian Arab people's rejection of coexistence with the occupation and of adherence to their national demands for independence and for eliminating the sufferings. With full responsibility and from a position of responsibility, we hope that this steadfastness will be exploited with the beginning of the end of the Iraq-Iran war and with the beginning of the unification of the Arab stand so that new sources of strength may be gained and so that the Palestinian people's steadfastness and the uprising can be used to alleviate this people's sufferings and attain part of the Arab nation's aim of ending the occupation of the territories occupied since 1967. The struggle with Israel is a historic one and, thus, requires a historic solution—the time for which has not yet come. The nature of historic conflicts is such that historic solutions are generated which span a number of generations. No one can be certain about what type of historic solutions will be attained, nor what ultimate form they will take because this is subject to a number of factors.

[Sabra] All right. While we are now witnessing the heroism of the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories through the activities of those now referred to as the sons of the stones, how do you assess the statements by PLO figures, such as Bassam Abu Sharif's document, which was circulated at the Arab summit in Algiers?

[Al-Khasawinah] If you are asking me as a Jordanian official, we in Jordan hope that God will save the Palestinian Arab people from their tribulations. We have concealed wounds that are really hurting us. But let us

not talk too much about this because of the extreme sensitivity of our brothers in the PLO, particularly toward any action which Jordan may undertake with regard to the Palestinian issue. They are sensitive to any Jordanian action. This sensitivity is reflected in the education which successive Palestinian generations have received. These generations have not been educated to look at Jordan like any other Arab country, to appreciate Jordan's role, or to accept Jordan's interpetration.

In our view, Jordan has spared no effort and always has been the first to act. The Palestinian issue is the cause of every Jordanian. But, as a result of the sensitivity of our PLO brothers, we, too, have become sensitive about not expressing a view on the internal struggles among the PLO brothers. Our hearts bled when we witnessed the conflicts in Lebanon, the explosions, the divisions, the exchange of accusations of treachery, and the exaggerated statements. We observed in silence and will continue to observe in this way. As to our commitments toward our Palestinian Arab people, they are the same as our known commitments to Iraq, as our known commitment toward any Arab issue, and as our people's commitment to Algeria when it was seeking independence.

We do not want to involve ourselves in these tragedies and in the statements being made here and there. We want to perform a silent and true role toward the Palestinian issue. We do not want to get involved in the struggles among the PLO wings except to pray to God to guide them to what is best.

[Sabra] Does this mean that there is no possibility of launching a practical Jordanian initiative to unify or close Palestinian ranks?

[Al-Khasawinah] We have repeatedly told them that serving the Palestinian cause, which is an Arab cause and the issue of the age, requires the highest degree of responsibility, patience, and exchange of views. Jordan, and specifically its political leadership represented by his majesty the king, has rare and unique experience in handling the arguments about the Palestinian issue in the international arena. We offer these services but in return we get what I have just revealed to you. We suffer from concealed wounds, from sensitivity, and from campaigns which cast doubts. We have, therefore, adopted a clear-cut approach which we publicized to our brothers and to the sons of our Arab nation at the Algiers summit through His Majesty King Husayn. We said that we do not wish to get involved in a competition or a dispute with the PLO, because the Palestinian cause is a sacred one which leaves no room for such things. For this reason, we believe that the approach we are adopting in the service of the cause is much better than initiatives in favor of the PLO.

[Sabra] I have another question within the same context dealing with the report carried by Israeli papers about a message which a Romanian envoy conveyed to the Israeli Government stating that the PLO is ready to negotiate with the Israeli side to find a solution to the problem of lands occupied after 1967?

[Al-Khasawinah] We have heard this and we know about it. We previously have told our brothers in the PLO: We know about the contacts you are holding with the Israeli left wing, or what you call a certain power in Israel. As I have said, we believe that the settlement of the Palestinian issue requires a unified Arab stand in general, and an exchange of views between Jordan and the brothers in the PLO in particular, so that we can alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people. We offer this as a proposal. We will not force it on them because of certain sensitivities between us.

Our encouragement for our folks and sons of the Arab Palestinian people to remain in the West Bank and Gaza have been interpreted as attempts to create alternative leaderships and to polarize allies. We want to eliminate these sensitivities once and for all. For this reason, as I already have told you, we were informed about these contacts. We have our own opinion of them. We believe that the Palestinian issue must be resolved through a unified Arab stand. Nonetheless, if our brothers in the PLO are optimistic and believe that such cotnacts will yield a better solution than that which may result from our efforts, or the efforts of our Syrian or Egyptian brothers, we pray to God to guide them to success.

[Sabra] Many PLO delegations have come to Amman. In fact, another delegation is currently in Amman. How do you describe Jordanian-Palestinian relations? Will the PLO have a new presence in the Jordanian arena?

[Al-Khasawinah] No. In fact, not many delegations have come. Delegations arrived on three separate occasions. We briefed them on what transpired between Jordanian officials and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. We exchanged views with them on Jordan's position with regard to the Palestinian issue, the uprising, and their presence. As you know, they have representatives in Jordan. 'Abd al-Razzaq Yahya and Ilya Khuri, two PLO Executive Committee members, are here. We maintain normal contacts with them as we do with the other Arab countries. We keep them informed. That is what is taking place.

[Sabra] Do you believe that Lebanon's tragedy will end with the election of a new president of the Republic?

[Al-Khasawinah] We pray to God that Lebanon's tragedy will end. We must express our confidence in this great Lebanese Arab people. Our hearts have been bleeding for them not for 1 or 2 days, but for 13 years now. [passage omitted]

We do not link the end of Lebanon's tragedy to new or old elections. I have absolute confidence that Lebanon will become healthy at a certain historic moment. It might be tomorrow or after 1 month. It might come before or after the elections. [passage omitted]

[Sabra] A final question: What is your view of Israel's demand for an end to the arms race in the region?

[Al-Khasawinah] Who but Israel has introduced the arms race to the region? Those who want to be superior qualitatively and quantitatively over the combined Arab countries; those who want to possess and have possessed nuclear weapons; those who even have included in their military strategy the attempt to deter the Soviet Union—a primary nuclear power; those who are intervening in the internal affairs of countries extending from Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, to Ethiopia—they are the ones who have introduced the arms race to the region. They are the ones who are ignoring the legal and practical rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab countries to self-defense.

Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq are buying weapons. Egypt also is buying weapons. Why? To defend themselves. It would be better for the Israelis to talk about peace and fulfill its obligations. The Israelis and the arms merchants are the ones who have introduced the regional arms race to the area. They are the ones who are selling weapons to the world and who want to reexport them to the United States, Latin American and other countries.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Editorial on West Bank Measures

JN0608140088 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Aug 88 pp 1, 17

[Article by the political editor: "Hand in Hand and Shoulder to Shoulder in the Face of Skeptics and Intriguers"]

[Text] Those who were not aware of the size of the Jordanian sacrifice on the pan-Arab level and of the Jordanian role in the Palestinian cause have been astonished and surprised. They believed that the recent Jordanian step which entrenched Palestinian representation and enhanced the Palestinian cause is a temporary tactical action whose objective is to accomplish a specific stage, after which, it will end.

Despite their genuine surprise and their deep emotions, those people will find that the Jordanian step is strategic and stems from the Jordanian understanding of how to serve the cause. It is a response to an Arab and Palestinian demand.

From this premise, we are convinced that attempts by many parties—whether friendly or skeptical—to dissuade Jordan from its measures will be useless and unwarranted.

Jordan has shattered the barrier of censorship that was imposed on its public actions while it was performing its duties on the pan-Arab level and even on the national level. It also eliminated any misinterpretations or suspicions, and dotted the i's so that no one can say any more: What if Jordan has done such a thing and what if it has not done such a thing?

The Jordanian initiative—described as the most important initiative in the history of the Palestinian cause since 1948 and the most serious since 1967—could not have been made had it not been for Jordan's deep awareness of its role, for the Arab nation's trust in it, and for its sincere desire to bring the Palestinian struggle currently expressed by the heroic uprising closer to the lines of positive confrontation.

The Jordanian decision must not come as a surprise to any of the parties which are involved in the Palestinian cause because it is an executive and procedural decision that translates an Arab and Palestinian orientation whose dimensions have started to surface since 1974—an orientation which took its final and integrated form at the Algiers Arab summit.

If some have been surprised by the decision, they are those who were astonished by the fact that Jordan is capable of emerging from the sphere of paralysis by demolishing the walls of suspicion and by airing the dirty laundry in public in one stroke—without fearing any blame or remonstrance after it carefully and calmly studied the issue. Jordan has not been motivated by reactions, haste, and the settlement of accounts, or by an attempt to force those who cannot settle these accounts to pay them.

We were not angry with the Arab brothers and with the PLO for acting this way. We neither slighted any party, deprived it of an opportunity, forced it to sit a test or placed it in a dilemma. This is not part of our traits and is remote from our pan-Arab or national concepts. We are concerned with the safety of the cause and preserving of it. We are also as eager to champion this cause as are its sons. Through our dealing with this cause, we have accumulated an asset that the far and near and the friend and the foe acknowledge. Therefore, it is unthinkable for us to cancel this asset by one move or one step.

The many interpretations and big and numerous questions faced by the Jordanian decisionmaker cannot make him go back on his clear and explicit stand and its practical, irrevocable steps. These queries, regardless of their formula, by misrepresenting the Palestinian and Arab wish regarding Palestinian representation, do not serve the cause or its people. The Jordanian decision has put an end to the duality of representation which those who cast doubts were using as a scarecrow before Jordan's political move. By its profound, practical step, Jordan has entrenched Palestinian representation in a manner that cannot be achieved by any quarter, even Palestinian.

This dual representation and all decisions stemming from it casted doubt even inside the Palestinian structure itself. We now believe more than ever before in the soleness of Palestinian representation. We see this as the Palestinians' path leading to crystallizing their national identity despite the nation's enemies who deny it. The Palestinians themselves have chosen this path and exerted their utmost. We have always said that the growth and development of the Palestinian identity is a Palestinian issue whose place is the occupied Palestinian land. This is because this identity—clearly drawn by the Palestinian people's valiant uprising—is a Palestinian national action responding to the occupation and its

practices confronting the world with the firm and clear fact of the Palestinian people's demand for their national legitimate rights and right to self-determination.

If the PLO—which has considered the Jordanian move responding to its request a vanguard step toward crystallizing representation—today faces its historic responsibilities toward dealing swiftly with and handling the new situation, it is, at the same time as Jordan, interested in opening a new chapter of comprehensive and deep dialogue aimed at foiling any political orientation contradicting this trend. This is especially since the Israeli enemy is casting doubt about the Jordanian step, attacking it, trying to undermine it publicly and explicitly, and watching for developments. This enemy should be replied to through deepening the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue on the basis of amity, good intention, and parallelism after the positions of friction, controversy, and differences have ended. Moreover, the fraternal Palestinian side's consequent steps should be clear with the objective of stopping misinterpretation and Israel's tendentious attempts aimed at influencing the behavior of those who are affected by rumors or those who have bad intentions against the Palestine question and the action on this question.

If Jordanian faithfulness, some of which was translated into recent measures were announced by the government the day before yesterday regarding employees in the occupied territories, is obvious and clear, the consequent steps will also have the same clarity, commitment, and faithfulness. They will not encroach on anyone's rights. This sanctuary will continue to exist for all its sons who affiliated to it and bear its citizenship regardless of their origin, position, and place of birth. No one will be better than the other except through what he contributes to the homeland's loftiness, stability, and progress.

Through their adherence to their sacred national unity, the sons of our people will know how to stand firmly in the face of all skeptical and treacherous sides, thanks to their cohesion and rallying around King Husayn's leadership, which has been and still is the Jordanians' major national symbol.

Paper on Economic Consequences of Disengagement
JN0208153588 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Aug 88 pp 22, 18

[Article: "On the Margin of the Latest Measures—Economic Relations Will Remain and Develop"; by unnamed economic editor]

[Text] Peoples and countries of the world are heading toward achieving different forms of political and economic unities. Peoples of the Arab nation were, and still are, longing for, and struggling to reach the best constitutional and practical forms to achieve their unity, federation, or even solidarity. At a time when these things are happening, talking about or making a decision to disengage an already existing bond between two of the regions of the Arab world—which suffered, and is still suffering, from regional divisions—is a hard and painful thing to do, and something that is not easy to accept or approve of.

The Israeli authorities have gone too far in suppressing the Palestinian masses, in denying their legitimate rights, and in the continued attempts to uproot the Palestinian people—through deportations, expulsions, and forcing them to emigrate. It was not strange that the Palestinian identity crystallized and emerged in the occupied land as a national and militant identity in the daily struggle against the Israeli occupier. This was clearly reflected by the uprising's slogans, and by the calls issued by its unified leadership.

Although making this decision was more bitter than eating poison, it became necessary to make the decision to disengage the existing bond between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the occupied territories. The temporary separation was taken from this militant premise and not from any other premise. Hence the latest measures came in the form of "disengaging legal and administrative relationship," because separation, even within its militant context, cannot be accepted or imagined to reflect real separatist trends and desires in the political and economic fields.

Proceeding from what was said earlier, the latest decision was associated with the preservation of the basis of the national unity, and with developing, deepening, and protecting this unity and defending it against any attack or insult. This goes for the political, as well as economic, aspects of the citizens' rights and obligations, regardless of their roots and origin.

It is not difficult to affirm a number of economic facts and principles, which can be summarized by the inevitability of the continuation of the existing economic relationship, which existed before the issuance of the latest resolution. These relations will remain the same as they were—in basis and crux—and with the existence of the factors that will assure their expansion, development, and activity.

1. In its legal aspect the economic activity in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will not be affected in any way. Individuals, as well as institutions, will continue their economic activity as they did in the past. We can even say that the departure from chaos, no matter how limited it may be, and reaching a clear resolution, no matter how hard it may be, will lay the material foundation for more work and progress.

2. The latest decision does not necessarily mean a break in the existing economic relations with the occupied territories. It is certain that the policy of open bridges will remain in force since allowing this policy to continue is considered one of the factors that contribute to assisting the kinfolk in the occupied territory in their steadfastness and in confronting the enemy. From this we

proceed to affirm that all forms of economic interests of the citizens of the occupied territory which resulted from the national unity, before and after the occupation, will be guaranteed.

3. Following the cancellation of the development plan for the occupied territory, new forms and methods will emerge to support the citizens' steafastness in the occupied territory economically. Jordan will not hesitate to make its territory a base and passage for all channels of financial support, which the PLO wishes to offer to the economic and social institutions there, and to help the families of the detainees, martyrs, and the unemployed.

4. Jordan welcomed, and will always welcome, any Arab investment in its territory. Jordan offered, and will offer, all forms of guarantees for these investments to protect them against confiscation and to guarantee their transfer outside Jordan at any time. Additionally, the investor is given the right to reside in Jordan. Such a welcome is necessarily applicable to any Palestinian citizen in any Arab or foreign country.

Again, we do not see any negative economic consequences resulting from the legal and administrative disengagement, from the dissolving of the house of representatives, from the cancellation of the economic development plan, or from some ministerial and administrative changes. Due to the importance, details, and motives of the latest decision, which deals with a historic relationship that continued to exist in its latest final constitutional form since 1950, we are not suprised by the questions and queries that are being raised and which reflect the legitiamte worry of our Jordanian citizen here, as well as our citizens there in the occupied territory, and even our Arab citizens everywhere.

We, and all popular institutions and official sides, must continue to answer these questions frankly and clearly until the circumstnaces that led to seaeration are terminated and until we see the return of the full, federal, or confederal unity, which will be the prelude to a comprehensive political and economic Arab unity.

Further Reportage on Israeli Air Raids Near Sidon

15 Casualties Reported

NC0908135688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Three persons were killed and 12 others were injured in the Israeli air raids against the Palestinian positions east of Sidon this afternoon.

Radio Station Damaged

NC0908143488 Paris AFP in English 1417 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Aug 9 (AFP)—Six people were injured and two others were reported missing Tuesday in an Israeli air raid on a PLO radio station in southern Lebanon, hospital officials and Palestinian sources said. Missing were said to be two technicians working for Voice of Palestine station that broadcasts to the Israeli-occupied territories. The six injured also included two radio technicians.

The raid lasting two hours silenced the radio, located in a secret site between the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah Palestinian refugee camps east of this port city, police said. But a Palestinian source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE: "The station is intact, we only need to replace two antennas which were destroyed in the raid and we will resume broadcasts."

Israeli Gunboats Hold Maneuver Along Shore

NC0810084488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Extreme caution still prevails in all the Palestinian camps in and east of Sidon for fear of fresh Israeli acts of aggression.

Meanwhile, Israeli gunboats advanced in the direction of Al-Zahrani shore and carried out a maneuver at 0400 today. The Amal Movement's artillery fired at them. Israeli forces also illuminated the Al-Qa'qa'iyah Bridge last night.

Meanwhile, an Amal Movement group detonated an explosive device as an Israeli Merkava vehicle was passing on the Baydar al-Tayyibah road yesterday evening. The vehicle was damaged and set on fire. Immediately afterward, Israeli occupation forces shelled the villages of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Yuhmur, and Al-Shaqif, the Al-Litani forest, and the area of the operation. The occupation forces also set up a roadblock on the Arnun-Yuhmur road and subjected travelers to meticulous searches, beating up some of them.

Fadlallah Expects U.S. 'Onslaught' in Election

NC1008060488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that he does not expect any good to come from any solution to the Lebanese question and announced that he expects a U.S. onslaught which will sway the majority of the Lebanese political club members. Fadlallah also said that there is no solution in sight for the Palestinian issue, noting that something is being planned against the uprising, as he called it.

Soviet Ambassador Meets Speaker al-Husayni

NC0908153788 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni resumed his consultations at Al-Mansur Palace today regarding the presidential elections. He met with the five ambassadors accredited to Lebanon representing the states which are permanent members of the Security Council. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha said: I visited Speaker al-Husayni following my vacation in the Soviet Union to brief him on the Soviet Union's new political trends so that a reassessment could be made regarding what has transpired in the international arena, particularly on the eve of the presidential elections.

Asked about the Soviet Union's policy on the presidential elections, Kolotusha said: This is primarily a Lebanese affair. Therefore, I only listened to the speaker's views and did not comment. I merely stressed the Soviet Union's desire to see Lebanon emerge from this long state of crisis to a state of peace, political dialogue, and national dialogue, and to hold the elections on the date specified constitutionally. [passage omitted]

Kolotusha was told: It is known that there is U.S.-Syrian mediation concerning the constitutional deadline. Is the Soviet Union exerting any efforts in this regard? He answered: The Soviet Union is not a party to the holding of the presidential elections.

Kolotusha was then asked: Is the Soviet Union not coordinating with the international efforts regarding this deadline? He answered: The constitutional deadline is primarily a Lebanese internal issue. He declined to answer another question about international interference.

'9 February' Claims Responsibility for Explosion

NC0908052988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] An explosive device went off at Al-Bashurah Bridge in West Beirut last night, wounding an element of the Syrian intelligence service. The device, estimated at 7 kg of TNT, was targeted against a Syrian position.

The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for the operation, saying that two Syrian soldiers and an element of Syrian intelligence were wounded. According to the organization, the Syrian occupation forces immediately surrounded the area and started shooting indiscriminately.

Resistance Attacks Lahd Position, Vehicle
NC0808150488 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] The revolutionaries of the resistance have continued their heroic operations against the occupation forces and the traitor Lahd's militia by attacking a position held by the agents near Jazzin. During a clash with the personnel manning the position, which continued for some time, the revolutionaries used machineguns and rockets. A number of agents were killed or wounded.

In a separate operation, a landmine planted by the resistance revolutionaries exploded under an agents' vehicle while traveling on the road leading to the border town of Yarin. After the explosion, the resistance fighters launched an attack on the vehicle, which received a direct hit. All of its occupants were killed or wounded.

Resistance Operations, Lahd Retaliation Reported
NC0908092588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] One of the national resistance groups attacked agent Lahd's Al-Rihan Barracks with RPG's and machineguns at dawn today. Agent Lahd militiamen retaliated by combing the area sourrounding the barracks. The number of casualties is not known.

In addition, a Lebanese Resistance Battalions group planted an explosive charge on the Al-Qantarah-Al-Tayyibah road at 1700 yesterday. As a mechanized Israeli patrol drove down the road, the resistance men detonated the charge, damaging an M-113 vehicle and killing or wounding its crewmen. Afterward, the enemy forces shelled the town of Bra'shit and helicopters strafed the area. Meanwhile, Israeli concentrations were seen at midnight last night in 'Alman and Al-Shumariyah. The town of Jba' and the surrounding area came under violent artillery shelling followed by intensive 12.7-mm sniper fire from the Israeli occupation forces posts at midnight last night, causing huge property damage. There were no reports on casualties.

In addition, rocket and machinegun fire exchanges are taking place between nationalist and agent Lahd positions on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir axes. An Israeli helicopter flew over the coast between Al-Sarafand and Al-Awwali this morning.

Briefs

Tunisia To Reopen Embassy

Muhammad 'Ali ibn 'Abdallah, the new Tunisian consul general in Lebanon, today stated that the Tunisian Government has decided to reopen its embassy's offices in Beirut. The Tunisian consul visited Ambassador Dr 'Asim Jabir, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, this morning and conveyed to him his government's decision to reopen its embassy's offices in Beirut and told him that Sa'd ibn Mustafa, Tunisian ambassador to Jordan, will assume the activities of the embassy in Lebanon. [Text] [*NC0908172388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Aug 88*]

Foreign Minister Receives Lebanon's Birri 4 Aug
JN0408115288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Nabih Birri, Lebanese minister of justice and hydroelectric resources. The talks dealt with the situation in Lebanon.

Khaddam, Birri, Junblatt Meet in Damascus 4 Aug
NC0408160488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Text] A meeting was held in Damascus before noon today attended by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt, and former Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the latest political developments, particularly those related to the presidential elections which constitute a basic juncture toward reconciliation based on reforms and liberation.

Delegation Returns From PDRY; Protocol Signed
JN0508143688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus—A People's Assembly delegation headed by Assembly Secretary Muhammad Sa'd returned to Damascus this morning from Aden at the end of a 7-day official visit to the PDRY during which it held parliamentary talks with a PDRY Supreme People's Council delegation headed by Sa'd 'Abd al-Khayr al-Nawban, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and head of the council's cultural committee.

A protocol for cooperation in various fields between the Syrian People's Assembly and the PDRY's Supreme People's Council, especially in the parliamentary field and in the exchange of expertise and visits, was signed. The protocol also enhances the brotherly relations, supports the various activities of the two councils, and coordinates joint efforts in Arab, regional, and international parliamentary conferences in the interest of our Arab issues and the Arab struggle in the field of liberation and construction.

Following the signing of the protocol, Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, received the Syrian Arab delegation. The delegation delivered to him a verbal message from 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, the speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly. The message included Qaddurah's greetings and good wishes and the assertion of promoting and constantly consolidating the brotherly bilateral relations. Al-'Attas thankfully accepted the greetings and asked that a similar verbal message be delivered to Qaddurah.

Cordial talks were later held, during which the importance of Arab solidarity for the common struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and colonialism was stressed. The talks also emphasized the importance of promoting bilateral relations, including parliamentary relations, in the interest of issues of common concern at the bilateral, Arab, and international levels.

PDRY's Al-'Attas Stops Over in Damascus
JN0508100888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, stopped over at Damascus International Airport en route to CSSR at noon today. Receiving him at the airport were Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

Al-'Attas made a statement to SANA correspondent. He stressed the strong relations between the two fraternal countries, Syria and the PDRY. Al-'Attas greeted the steadfast Syrian people under President Hafiz al-Asad.

Somali Foreign Minister Hamud Visits Damascus

Arrives With Letter
JN0608203488 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somalia's state minister for foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus this afternoon. In an arrival statement, Dr Hamud said he is carrying a letter from President Mohamed Siad Barre to President Hafiz al- Asad. He will also talk with Syrian officials on Arab developments. Hamud greeted the Syrian Arab people and their wise leadership, wishing them continued progress and prosperity.

Delivers Message for Al-Asad
JN0808181488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Mohamed Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, and the accompanying delegation at 1130 today. Khaddam was handed a message addressed to President Hafiz Al-Asad from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre.

The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs. Talks dealt with the situation in the Horn of Africa.

Meets With Al-Ahmar
JN0808114988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2025 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this evening received Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somalia's minister of

state for foreign affairs, and the accompanying delegation. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on the developments in the Arab arena, particularly in the Arab-Zionist conflict and the imperialist and Zionist schemes against the Arab steadfastness forces whose base is Syria—schemes aimed at liquidating the Arab cause.

The two sides discussed the situation in the Horn of Africa, relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and the Somali Socialist Party, and issues of common concern.

Received by Al-Asad

JN0808152688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1030 today Mohamed Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign afairs and Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre's envoy, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign afairs. During the meeting, the Somali president's envoy reviewed the situation in the Horn of Africa.

The Somali envoy handed a message to Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam addressed to President Hafiz al-Asad from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre yesterday.

Departs 9 Aug

JN0908123888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Dr Mohamed Ali Hamud, Somali minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation left Damascus this morning following a 4-day visit to Damascus. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign afairs; the director of the Arab Homeland Department; and the Somali charge d'affaires in Damascus and embassy staff.

Dr Hamud made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he expressed happiness for visiting fraternal Syria and meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad to whom he delivered message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre. He explained that his meetings with Syrian officials were aimed at exchanging views and thoughts on various Arab issues. He said: I am very pleased with the results of these meetings.

Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi Interviewed

PM0808091588 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 31 Jul 88 p 3

[Unattributed interview with Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi; place, date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-BA'TH: Could you talk to us about the ideological [al-'aqa'idi] Army?

Gen al-Shihabi: In brief we can say that the ideological Army experiment in the Syrian Arab state is a pioneering one in the Arab world. Our Army is the nation's Army. It is the people's Army which is committed to their ideology, objectives and aspirations. Via this experiment, which is a great achievement that has changed the ideological fabric of this Army, the Army shows commitment to the ideology of the leading party, the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, representing the Arab nation's aspirations, especially as its combat capabilities have been strengthened. The Army is now equipped with the latest weapons in order to be able to accomplish the mission assigned to it. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH: On this basis, namely, the pan-Arab mission of the Armed Forces, could you kindly talk to us about the forces' role in fraternal Lebanon, especially after their entry into the southern suburb [of Beirut]?

Gen al-Shihabi: During all the stages of the ordeal fraternal Lebanon is going through Syria has always adopted a supportive stand calling for security to spread throughout Lebanon and helping it restore its strength, unity, and territorial integrity. On this basis the Syrian Arab forces entered the suburb with the aim of ending the tragedy of infighting and destruction. That is why the masses of the Lebanese people welcomed and appreciated such a step. Such a stand is not alien or new to the Syrian Arab Army. Since its establishment it has always been the Arab nation's Army, especially under the March revolution and after the blessed corrective movement. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH: We now come to the issue of the camps war, which flares up from time to time, especially recently. What is your comment?

Gen al-Shihabi: The indignation of the Arab and Palestinian masses against what the deviationist 'Arafatist clique has perpetrated and still is perpetrating in the camps is clear evidence that the clique, which kindled the war, was proceeding from the objectives of its capitulationist, liquidatory plan, whose aim is to impose Camp David on the Palestinian Arab people in the same manner, but with some changes in the symbols, names, and positions.

The pan-Arab position on the Palestinian cause is principled and firm. It repudiates all liquidatory and settlement conspiracies. It also repudiates all violation attempts embarked on by the deviationist Palestinian right—attempts that have failed because of the resolute position of our masses and nation. Via the camps war the deviationists are trying to strike at the unity of our Palestinian Arab people, namely by sparking off inter-Palestinian fighting. And this falls within the scheme revealed by the document which was announced in the name of Bassam Abu Sharif [adviser to 'Arafat]. The scheme is aimed at paving the way for circumventing the

heroic uprising of our kinfolk in the occupied territories and abandoning the cause and the rights by concluding a direct negotiation deal with the Zionist enemy.

The masses of our people are exposing and resisting these schemes, emphasizing that there can be no alternative to the Syrian-Palestinian struggle alliance as the only way to recover the usurped national rights. At the same time the masses commend the great pan-Arab role Syria is playing in the arena of Palestinian national action. Thus, we can see how important and difficult the pan-Arab mission of the Syrian forces in fraternal Lebanon is. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH: Does the Zionist enemy seek to hamper endeavors to achieve a just peace in the region?

Gen al-Shihabi: Certainly. What was between the Zionist enemy and Al-Sadat, even during the [October 1973] war, was an attempt to de-escalate the state of conflict, which reached a state of strategic offensive, by bringing about a kind of imaginary peace guaranteeing the Zionist enemy's existence and survival as well as a powerful force for it so that the enemy will always be in a position to make threats and continue to perform his role within the frame of repression, with the backing of imperialism. This is what has been sought by the proponents of the capitulationist and weak stands since the signing of the Camp David accords.

AL-BA'TH: What option do the Arabs have in this battle of destiny?

Gen al-Shihabi: It is certainly a battle of destiny. We have been engaged in it for 4 decades or more. We had no option but military confrontation because of the nature of the Zionist aggression against our territory and people, namely via occupation, expansion, repression, and the building of settlements. If Arab Syria is in direct confrontation with the enemy, and if it is an honor to Syria to be on the front line defending the honor of this nation, this does not exempt any Arab from performing his duty in this battle. This is because the enemy's expansionist schemes are no longer content with even the slogan "from the Euphrates to the Nile."

Thus, the Zionist danger, backed by imperialism, poses a threat to Mosul just as it poses threat to Aswan. It poses a threat to the Arab Maghreb just as it poses threat to Gulf oilfields. That is why the entire Arab nation from the Gulf to the ocean is urged to be in genuine confrontation with the enemy and use its military and social weapons if peaceful and diplomatic efforts fail, especially as there is no good omen in the horizon regarding the international conference plan.

I would like to say that we have always called for a peace based on justice, the liberation of our occupied territory, and the restoration of the usurped rights. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH: This leads us to the strategic balance sought.

Gen al-Shihabi: On Army Day last year the leader president said: "We are proceeding on our road both steadfast and firm, fearing nothing and sparing no sacrifices, determined without any hesitation to build a comprehensive balance with the enemy. We will continue to build up our nation's strength to resist the Zionist invasion and confront those backing it. This confrontation is a large-scale and long-term one. And any efforts we exert in enhancing our strength and strengthening our capabilities in any field or battle against the enemies anywhere in fact constitute part of this large-scale confrontation, at the end of which we are confident we will reap the fruits of victory."

We believe that when the objective is pan-Arab and when the stand is principled, the task will continue to be geared to achieving that objective on the basis of that principled stand. Thus, we are proceeding persistently with our pan-Arab and national tasks. As is known, strategic balance with the enemy is an integrated task at all levels: military, economic, social, and cultural. It is not one gun against another or one aircraft against another. I can say that we are satisfied with what we have achieved in this field, but this does not exempt all the Arabs from performing their duty in this field. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Talks Demand, Government-in-Exile Assailed

JN0508141288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Baghdad rulers are insisting on the principle of holding direct negotiations as a precondition for allowing UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for ending the Gulf war, to be implemented. The justifications advanced by these rulers for this precondition are that they have doubts about the motives behind Iran's acceptance of this resolution, that they accuse Iran of maneuvering and of attempting to break the ring of international isolation encircling it, and some other excuses.

Despite the fact there is an almost international consensus to the effect that the new Iranian stance voicing Iran's acceptance of the UN resolution cannot be considered a tactic, a maneuver, or a sort of deception, and considering a host of internal and external givens that have left their effects on Iran, the Baghdad rulers have continued to lend a deaf ear to these voices, to promote their accusations, and to attempt to win support and backing for these accusations.

This makes one wonder whether sincere intentions and an honest desire to restore security and peace to the Gulf are the reasons behind the Baghdad rulers' insistence on the principle of holding direct negotiations as a means to dispel the doubts and suspicions with which these rulers are engulfing the Iranian intentions, or whether this Iraqi insistence on this principle constitutes a link within the

framework of the role which Washington and Zionism asked the Saddam regime to play, beginning with the ignition of the war and ending with what is currently going on.

It is well-known that the principle of direct negotiations is the precondition adhered to by the Zionists with the aim of dealing separately with each Arab party and imposing capitulation on the Arabs. It is also a well-known fact that this principle has continued to be rejected by the Arabs despite the treason of Al-Sadat and that of Palestinian rightists whose recent call for holding direct negotiations with the Zionist enemy were met with wide- ranging Palestinian and Arab opposition.

Hence, the Baghdad rulers' insistence on the principle of holding direct negotiations is bound to eventually serve the Zionist stance, which rejects any settlement that falls within the framework of international legitimacy and which adheres to the direct negotiations demand as a means to torpedo Arab rights through tearing apart the unified Arab stand.

Some might say that there is no similarity between the situation in the Gulf and the situation in the Middle East. However, we in fact should know that establishing and accepting the principle of direct negotiations might become a precedent that would consecrate the well-known Zionist stance toward the negotiation process regarding a settlement of the Middle East conflict. We can never rule out the possibility that this might be one of the objectives behind the Saddam regime's insistence on direct negotiations, especially if we view this stand within the framework of the role which Washington and Zionism asked this regime to play in this war and especially if we view this regime's relations with the Camp David Cairo regime.

The possibility is also there if we view this regime's sponsorship of the advocates of the course of rightist deviation who have begun to launch trial balloons from Baghdad to pave the way for entering into direct negotiations with the Zionist enemy through their recent call for accelerating the formation of the so-called Palestinian government-in-exile.

Thus, Saddam Husayn's call for holding direct negotiations with Iran is not prompted by an eagerness to preserve Iraqi rights inasmuch as it seeks to pave the way and estalish a precedent for the Zionist enemy and the Arabs who are running breathlessly to conclude a capitulatory settlement to enter into direct negotiations that would lead to further forfeiting of the Arab nation's rights.

Afghanistan

Rebels Claim Soviet Troops Still in Qandahar

BK0908123088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 9 (AFP)—Most Soviet troops have withdrawn from Qandahar in southern Afghanistan but a number are still guarding the local airport as heavy fighting continues for control of the city, rebel sources said Tuesday.

Western diplomats quoting official Afghan sources said Tuesday the Soviet force in Afghanistan's second biggest city—estimated at 10,000 troops and an unspecified number of military advisers—had fully withdrawn by Thursday.

But rebel commander Abdul Wahid, who leads forces in the Mahalalajat region near Qandahar, said continued fighting had forced an unspecified number of Soviet troops to remain at the city's airport and nearby fortress.

(In Moscow, the Soviet press said Tuesday the pullout had been completed Sunday and that fierce fighting was raging in the city.

(The reports said 17,000 rebels had gathered around Qandahar, 3,000 to 5,000 of whom were fighting, but said Afghan Army units and local militias had routed rebel groups trying to block the city and take Arghandab District.)

One Western diplomat, quoting Afghan sources, said the situation was "very bad" in Qandahar, which Kabul has admitted has been 70 per cent destroyed during the nine-year war in Afghanistan.

"Combat continues in and around the city and the mujahidin have been attacking Arghandab District for the past 40 days, losing some 100 men in the process," the diplomat said.

Afghan troop casualties were arriving at Kabul airport, diplomats said.

They said a portion of the Soviet forces had to be evacuated by air from Qandahar by military planes which transferred a large number of Kabul troops and arms and ammunition, newly-supplied from the Soviet Union, to the city.

The Soviet troops leaving by road could not use the main Kabul-Qandahar highway and opted for the circuitous Qandahar-Herat road, they said.

Resistance sources in the Pakistani border town of Quetta said 18 Soviet soldiers were killed last week during a first withdrawal attempt.

The Soviet Union must have pulled out about 50,000 troops by Monday under the Geneva accords signed April 14 by Pakistan and the Kabul government.

Diplomats said Soviet troops had also pulled out from Lashkargah and Konduz Province in the north and the withdrawal was on schedule.

Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said in Lahore Tuesday the withdrawal was going according to schedule but added that his charge last month that 10,000 fresh Soviet troops had arrived in Afghanistan was "not a speculation."

Moscow denied General Ziaul Haq's July 23 statement, which alleged fresh troops were needed to reinforce defenses in Kabul after rebel rocket attacks there.

Diplomats said Tuesday that Kabul was relatively quiet compared to last month when a series of rocket attacks left more than 100 people dead.

There were four rocket attacks last week in the area, against Soviet and government troops bases in Khairkhana and Darul Aman and the city's market, resulting in about a dozen casualties, they said. They said two more rockets struck the city's southwestern Karte Nau District where residents found rocket casing which had Soviet markings.

Soviet-Afghan forces last week intensified efforts to defeat some 4,000 rebels including 700 men from Panjsher Valley commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, besieging Paghman town near Kabul, the diplomats said.

They were now in full control of the town despite suffering heavy casualties, they said, adding that despite having pulled back from some posts the rebels were still present in the area in force.

The situation has deteriorated further in Jalalabad east of Kabul, the diplomats said. Soviet forces began their pullout on May 15 from the garrison town. Rebels have called on the population to evacuate, they said.

BAKHTAR Comments on Shevardnadze's Visit

LD1008073988 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 10 Aug 88

["Commentary on Visit of Soviet Leadership to Afghanistan"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 8, BAKHTAR—The talks of foreign minister of the Soviet Union, Eduard Shevardnadze and deputy-chairman of the Council of Ministers of that country, Vladimir Kamentsev, during their recent visit here with the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, Najibullah, the Afghan Foreign Minister A. Wakil and other members of the Afghan leadership concentrated on

peace issues in Afghanistan, joint Afghan-Soviet cooperation and the unification of all patriotic forces in the United Front of National Reconciliation.

The joint Afghan-Soviet announcement which was issued on Sunday on the results of the talks held in Kabul demonstrated a high degree of identity of the stands and approaches of the two countries, their preparedness to strengthen cooperation and interact in the international arena.

The announcement stipulates that the accords drawn up under the aegis of the United Nations Organisation and strengthened by its prestige are of a legal status of world-wide significance. The attitude to them is an indicator of respect for the opinion of the world community.

The Soviet foreign minister in his interview with a BAKHTAR correspondent said that as far as it is concerned to the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, they have met in a full measure the commitments made by them under those accords. The return home of the Soviet troops, envisaged for the first stage, is being practically implemented. The troops have already been withdrawn from most of Afghanistan's provinces. The Republic of Afghanistan is doing every thing necessary to create a favourable atmosphere for implementing the Geneva accords, appropriate conditions are being created for the return to the country of refugees who are receiving all-round aid.

At the same time, a source of deep concern are the actions by the Pakistani side, which systematically and crudely violates the Geneva agreement, encourages interference in Afghanistan's affairs from the territory of Pakistan. This finds its expression in the sending of weapons and equipment to Afghanistan and sending across the border armed detachments. Both the Pakistani side itself and the opposition having its support are engaged in a fierce propaganda warfare against Afghanistan. Serious obstacles are being put up on the way of return of refugees to their homeland.

These are all what run counter to the provisions agreed in Geneva.

The joint statement stipulates that the obstructionist line of the Pakistani authorities, if it further continues, may lead to the loss by the Geneva process of the positive essence contained in it in the conditions when one of the main parties to the Geneva agreements does not observe their main provisions. This situation, the joint statement stressed, make the Soviet Union and Afghanistan draw the necessary conclusions and determine their actions if an end is not put to interference in Afghanistan's affairs.

The joint announcement indicates that the main objective of the visit by Eduard Shevardnadze to Afghanistan was to develop the economic ties between the USSR and the Republic of Afghanistan for the mutual benefit of the two countries and have a big potential.

Its use necessitates the establishement of such new forms of cooperation as the setting up of joint ventures, cooperative amalgamations and direct ties. A promising trend of cooperation is a broadening of trade between institutions with representatives of Afghanistan's private trade and industrial business and Soviet organisations.

Agreement has been reached that in the course of the official friendly visit to the USSR to be paid by Hasan Sharq, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, a long-term program will be signed for economic, technical and trade cooperation between the two countries up to the year 2000.

The crux of the matter is that the visit of Soviet foreign minister to Afghanistan and his talks with the Afghan authorities have taken place for the cause of peace and welfare of the people of Afghanistan and are helping Afghanistan at all time.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Gulf Cease-Fire

LD1008074488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0536 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 9, BAKHTAR—The Republic of Afghanistan has consistently described the Iran-Iraq war, which left behind over one million persons killed and injured and loss of billions of dollars to both sides, as futile and detrimental to the interests of the both countries, says a spokesman of Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan viewing on the accord made by the Republic of Iraq regarding the observation of Resolution Number 598 of the Security Council of the United Nations Organisation first on the ceasefire announcement and later to direct talks with Iran.

The Republic of Afghanistan, the spokesman adds, right from the beginning has expressed its support to a just and peaceful political solution of the conflict and to the resolution of UN Security Council in this regard. The Republic of Afghanistan at the beginning of the current month described the acceptance of ceasefire by the Islamic Republic of Iran as promising and (?considered) it as a hopeful reflection for the cessation of tension in the region and securing of a peaceful atmosphere in the Gulf.

The spokesman adds the Republic of Afghanistan appreciated the constructive efforts of Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, for getting the acceptance of Iraq on cease-fire and the beginning of direct talks and considers it a big success for the United Nations and the peaceful mankind. Direct talks are the only effective and urgent way for reaching to a durable peace in the region.

Thus, the Republic of Afghanistan has consistently expressed its support to such type of discussions in the process of Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan, once again, reiterates on the removal of tension and attainment of peace in the region and the establishment of a peaceful and good neighbourliness between the countries and is paying respect to the role played by the United Nations Organisation in putting an end to such conflicts and useless war, concludes the spokesman.

Helicopter Crash Causes Two Casualties

LD0908162388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] A low-flying Air Force helicopter crashed because of a technical defect at 0515 today near the end of the airport runway [place not specified], killing a child, injuring a woman, and partially damaging three houses.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that Esteemed Afghan President Najibullah has instructed the Defense Ministry to convey his condolences to the families of the dead and injured, investigate the amount of damage caused by the incident, and give immediate financial aid to those compatriots whose houses were damaged.

Operations Against 'Extremists' Continue

LD0908200688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The country's security forces today seized some weapons and ammunition belonging to the extremists around (Samarkhel) village near the city of Jalalabad. According to the BIA military section, the security forces, with the cooperation of the local people, discovered and removed 19 kg of explosives and 8 antivehicle mines. The extremist groups had hidden the weapons and ammunition at (Samarkhel) in preparation for transferring them to Jalalabad.

According to another report, the security forces recently dealt with an armed extremist group of Gulbuddin's band that tried to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of the village of Behsud near Jalalabad. Two of the lunatics were killed in the operation, and 4 rockets and some light weapons were seized.

According to another report from Nangarhar Province, an armed extremist group of Gulbuddin's band was crushed yesterday. The band was trying to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of the village of (Arababad) in Chapliar Khwar Subdistrict. Two members of the group were killed, and three others were severely wounded.

At the request of the people of Asmar District, Konar Province, the armed forces have crushed armed extremist groups. Ten individuals of the Gulbuddin and Yunis Khalis extremist bands were punished for their sinister actions. One surface-to-surface missile launcher, 2 mortars, 1 recoilless rifle, 2 DShKs, and a munitions convoy were destroyed in the operation.

Security forces, with the cooperation of the local people, recently crushed an armed extremist group of Gulbuddin's band, which was transporting weapons and ammunition near Mohammad Agha District in Lowgar Province. A number of the extremists were killed, including (Kochay), a ringleader of the Gulbuddin band, and one of his Pakistani advisers; a number were wounded. The convoy of weapons and ammunition was completely destroyed.

Some 300 mortar shells and 3 boxes of hand grenades were seized in Daman District, Qandahar Province. The shells and hand grenades had been taken to the district to terrorize the local people and disrupt their peaceful lives.

According to another report, two professional terrorists of the extremist armed groups were recently captured in Ward 3 of Qandahar. With the cooperation of the local people, the terrorists' sinister plan was discovered and neutralized. The terrorists had brought hand grenades and other weapons to the city.

Kabul Government 'Forcibly' Drafting Young Boys

BK0908155488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The Kabul regime is facing a serious manpower shortage with the increasing number of military personnel being killed or deserting the armed forces. To meet this shortage, the Kabul regime has reportedly started forcibly conscripting boys 13-14 years of age, but the Afghan people are refusing to join the Army to fight against the mujahidin.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin have attacked (Mahallajat) Garrison in Qandahar Province and Gardeyz Garrison in Paktia Province with rockets, killing a number of Kabul soldiers and destroying a helicopter and two tanks. The mujahidin are said to have attacked several posts in Paktia Province and inflicted heavy losses on Kabul troops. Five soldiers surrendered before the mujahidin.

67th Violation Notice Submitted to UN Mission

LD1008080588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 9, BAKHTAR—The sixty seventh notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on flagrant violations of Pakistan from the Geneva Agreements was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

The notice urged the UN team to investigate instances of the Pakistani violations and inform the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general of its results.

Najibullah Receives Transport Workers 9 Aug

LD0908230288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, received today a number of transport workers and officials in Delkosha Palace. After the recitation of some Koranic verses, Esteemed Najibullah said: I met some of you during my first visit to the Afghan-Soviet Transport Association. Over the past week Mr Muhammad Hasan Sharq, the prime minister; Mr Muhammad 'Aziz, the minister of transport; Mr Muhammad Khan Jalalar, the minister of commerce; and I have been seriously engaged in work on issues concerning the growth of motor vehicle transport and the problem of improving the working and living conditions of drivers, technicians, and officials of the transport firms.

Motor vehicle transport is one of the vital sections of the national economy. Motor vehicle transport plays a primary role in handling the socio-economic tasks of our country.

During my visit to the Afghan-Soviet Transport Association I said: Afghanistan is a proud and honorable country. Four-fifths of the country is made up of mountains and hills. From ancient times trade routes connecting various areas of the vast continent of Asia have passed through Hindu Kush, Safid Kuh, and Towr Ghar and through the Soleyman mountains.

Esteemed Najibullah said they are the honorable heirs of their fathers whose lives were linked to the trade routes. Therefore, your profession is a revolutionary economic profession. You stand in the forefront of the struggle for the economic growth and progress of your beloved country.

I became closely acquainted with your heroism in recent meetings. During the years of revolution some heroic brothers working for the transport firms lost their lives in discharging their duty to the people. Their names and memories will always live in our hearts. To honor their memory we shall stand and observe a minute's silence. After the minute's silence, Esteemed Najibullah, the president, wished the workers and officials of the transport firms health and continuing success.

BIA adds that after the speech of Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, the minister of transport thanked the president of Afghanistan. [passage omitted] BIA adds that Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, in his concluding speech drew the attention of the transport workers and officials to the great tasks that the country and national reconciliation has placed on their shoulders in the present situation.

Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, had lunch in the company of transport workers and officials in the Delkosha Palace, the presidency of Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Sharq Holds News Conference 6 Aug

LD0808220188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Aug 88

[News conference by Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq at Gol Khanah Palace in Kabul 6 August; moderator unidentified—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified moderator] Esteemed listeners of Radio Afghanistan: As you know, yesterday 6 August, Afghan Prime Minister Muhammad Sharq held a news conference at Gol Khanah Palace where he received a large group of foreign journalists and answered their question. At the start of the press conference Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq briefed the foreign journalists on the composition of the new government, its policies, and its efforts to implement the national reconciliation policy and the Geneva agreements, as well as to ensure peace in the region and halt bloodshed. The journalists were then allowed to ask questions. We now draw your attention to the full contents of this news conference:

[Sharq] Ladies and gentlemen: I welcome the arrival of the foreign journalists in Kabul. In recent years Afghanistan and its problems have drawn the attention of the world. Despite the enemy's hostile propaganda we do not want to hide the current situation in the country, contrary to the belief of the world mass media. I am very happy that the bravest and the most honest journalists visit Afghanistan. I know you will be interested in the briefing on the continued withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents and in observing the process of the implementation of the Geneva agreements.

Your visit to Afghanistan coincides with the impending completion of the first stage of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet forces from Afghanistan in line with the agreements signed in Geneva. Our people are looking forward to permanent peace in the country and the cessation of the futile war after the signing and enforcement of the Geneva agreements. You are aware that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have thus far precisely followed and implemented the agreements. Unfortunately, the other signatory to the agreement has risen against this sacred wish of our country's wretched people and acted in contravention of the Geneva agreements .

In the city centers, the innocent and defenseless people of our country have confronted rocket attacks as a result of the arming and training of opposition bands in Pakistan. Civilian airplanes are attacked with Stinger and Blowpipe missiles. With the direct backing of its warmongering supporters, the Pakistani Government has flooded our country with arms and ammunition, and it interferes in complete contravention of the agreements signed in Geneva. It is easy to see what those who fan the flames of war and who maintain their existence in the continuation of this futile war want.

Right now the national reconciliation policy is observed and implemented with full sincerity in the Republic of Afghanistan. For us this policy is not a slogan or propaganda but life itself. I have returned to the active life of Afghan politics only to implement this policy's basic line.

You know that some time ago the work of the first session of the country's parliament, which is one of the greatest achievements of this humanitarian policy. [sentence as heard] The Afghan Constitution stipulates the right of peaceful activity for all political parties, and all opponents were urged to take part in the parliamentary elections. The new government of Afghanistan, which received a vote of confidence from the country's parliament as representing a broad section of society, is proving that no particular political party has a political monopoly. I would like to say that when I was presenting the new combined cabinet to the country's parliament for debate even my closest friends did not believe that the cabinet would receive a vote of confidence. Some predicted only 30 percent support, but the proposed cabinet got 100 percent of the votes. This reveals many things, but it is not a sign of pressure from above. The atmosphere in the Milli Shura was very democratic. Anyone who was acquainted with the Milli Shura sessions can believe this.

The total support for the new cabinet implies great confidence and the formal recognition of the multiparty and coalition system as the key basis for a new political system. We have said in our policy speech that to ensure peace and the cessation of war, we are ready to discuss and negotiate with every opposition group or all of them as one entity. We have repeatedly said that no position is so important to us that we would sacrifice the lives of innocent people to secure it. The Afghan leadership believes that conducting negotiations to resolve the misery of the oppressed people of Afghanistan is detrimental and insulting to both sides, who are compatriots and coreligionists.

The Afghan Government has clearly declared that it is ready to prepare peaceful ways of contact with hostile groups, whether they are inside or outside the country. There are those who respond to our people's good intentions with surface-to-surface and surface-to-air rockets. The conclusion we draw from this response from a number of hostile groups is that those who refuse to talk are either afraid of the people's judgment or they alone do not have the authority to negotiate an end to the war. The question arises: What benefit do our foreign enemies expect by continuing this ruinous war, and why do they continue to add even more fuel to the fire?

Esteemed journalists, I know that you have come here to ask questions, not to answer our questions, but I would like you to report what you learn here to the world honestly, adhering to accepted principles in the name of human beings and humanity. I am now at your disposal.

[Moderator—in English] Here is a question from German television and radio. As the withdrawal of the Russian troops continues on schedule, we learned today that Soviet troops are no longer in 19 provinces. Will you please tell me how far the power of the prime minister extends from Kabul?

[Sharq] I tell you that fortunately, the authority of the Afghan Government extends to all Afghanistan, particularly those ares where there are no Soviet forces. I can certainly tell you that if the foreign interference does not intrude, the Afghan leadership can rule all Afghanistan.

[Moderator] The reporter from the Komsomol newspaper asks you, Esteemed Dr. Muhammad Hasan Sharq, to answer the question from the West German newspaper reporter. He also wants to know about the situation in the areas from which Soviet troops have withdrawn.

[Sharq] I told you that our sovereignty exists in all those areas where there are no Soviet troops, but if you mean terrorism, unfortunately it exists everywhere. I hope that the opposite side will respond positively to our philanthropic wishes and abandon terrorism and the murder of innocent people.

[Moderator] A Soviet daily reporter's question has two parts: The first part concerns the future economic development tasks before the government, and the second part is about current talks between the Soviet foreign minister and the Afghan authorities. What are your views on these talks?

[Sharq] In reply to your first question on the economy, I should say that you know Afghanistan has been faced with an undeclared and imposed war for the last 10 years. Unfortunately, the new (?situation) has also had very bad effects on Afghanistan. For example, in some Afghan provinces from which many people left as refugees, in most of those villages where water canals [words indistinct] and houses have been destroyed as a result of the weather situations. In this regard, we hope that the visit by [words indistinct] by Sadruddin Aga Khan will be beneficial for rehabilitation in Afghanistan. Fortunately, so far a number of countries of the world have displayed their willingness to [words indistinct] of the Afghan economy, and most of them want to aid the rehabilitation in Afghanistan through the United Nations. However, two countries so far have expressed their willingness—in addition to helping through the United Nations—to help Afghanistan directly. One is the Republic of India, and the other is the Soviet Union.

Concerning Shevardnadze's visit, I believe you will meet with the Afghan president who will brief you on this. The meeting I had yesterday with His Excellency Shevardnadze was long and comprehensive. We exchanged views

on several matters. Our meeting took place in an atmosphere of complete understanding of the complexity of the tasks (?discussed). I gratefully accepted Mr Shevardnadze's invitation to visit the USSR in Sonbola [begins 21 August].

[Moderator] [Name indistinct] of TIME magazine asks: Mr Prime Minister, here is another question regarding your talks with Mr Shevardnadze: It was said today and yesterday that you and the Afghan president discussed two major topics with Mr Shevardnadze. One was Pakistan's repeated violations of the spirit of the Geneva accords and the other was the introduction of changes in the political structure of Afghanistan, including the present goverment, You also discussed proposals presented by Mr Cordovez. Is our assumption correct?

[Sharq] I should tell you that during our meeting with Mr Shevardnadze, there was no mention of political changes or any discussion in this regard. The appointment of a government and the destiny of a government depends on the Afghan people. Our government will allow no one to speak on this subject. I should state that the Soviet and Afghan Governments are both sincerely bound by the Geneva accords. In our meetings, we listened to Mr Shevardnadze and supported the discussion he had with the Pakistani foreign minister concerning the Geneva accords. The USSR is one of the signatories to the Geneva accords. We are sincerely grateful for this. We hope that the U.S. [words indistinct] will have the same sort of discussion that Mr Shevardnadze had concerning Pakistan's non-observance of the Geneva accords.

[Moderator] Mr Prime Minister, in your statements you said that no position was worth shedding innocent blood. Does your statement coincide with the president's view?

[Sharq] I also said before that it belongs to the Afghan people. I can tell you that the Afghan president sincerely favors the cause of peace.

[Moderator] There are rumors concerning the state political structure in the localities. You are a political personality, and you headed the Secretariat at the Prime Minister's Office in a previous cabinet. How do you view this matter?

[Sharq] I would like to say that the whole Afghan political structure is maintained according to the Constitution and the current laws of Afghanistan. [passage indistinct] Therefore, the laws of our Constitution is put into practice in our organizational structure in the localities and provinces.

[Moderator] A Swiss reporter asks: The United States stated in Geneva that it will help the opposition to the extent that the Soviet Union helps the Afghan state in regard to the weapons. Have you recently received such Soviet assistance?

[Sharq] Our relations with the Soviet Union predate the present internal war. We had sincere and friendly relations. The Geneva documents include no agreement stipulating that the Soviet Union should not assist Afghanistan. I must say that the United States has always stated that we agree with the opposition on a number of issues: a neutral government acceptable to the Afghan people and as a result of votes [words indistinct]. Because we are ready to sit at the negotiating table with the opposition and discuss the future of Afghanistan, I believe it would be better for the United States to prepare the ground for talks. If we Afghans do not solve our problems, then the war will continue. The United States is a guarantor of the Geneva accords. However, it continues the war for the reason that possibly it would not turn up as such. [sentence as heard]

We appeal to you, in particular those who have come from European countries: Afghanistan has prepared the ground for a Western-style multiparty democracy. Instead of supplying weapons to a group of merciless terrorists who kill innocent people, they should prepare the way for negotiations in order to resolve the situation. I hope that when you leave you will write articles in your dailies and newspapers asking the United States to prepare the ground for negotiations between the sides of the people of Afghanistan. As a responsible person, I can assure you that if we are allowed to talk with each other, we ill successfully find a way to a peaceful solution.

[Moderator] Do you receive military assistance?

[Sharq] If you were a government accepted by the Afghan people and if you were faced with a destructive war, would you not ask for assistance from another country? However, I assure you that at present we are strong enough that we do not need further assistance, provided this balance is not disturbed by our U.S. friends.

[Moderator] A reporter from the NEW TIMES of Moscow asks: Mr Prime Minister, you are not a PDPA member. Have you faced any problems in leading the coalition government in these complex conditions?

[Sharq] Not only am I not a member of the PDPA but I belong to no other Afghan party. To date I have had no problems leading my cabinet because all our colleagues joined the cabinet with one goal; that is, to prepare the ground for reconciliation in Afghanistan. The question of being a partisan or a nonpartisan is not an issue among us. What is important to us is who benefits from the cause of reconciliation. Our cabinet believes that anyone who disagrees with this should not be in our cabinet.

[Moderator—in English] John [name indistinct] Cable Network asks: Mr Prime Minister, a prominent Soviet general, with bad field experience here in Afghanistan, was recently quoted in the Moscow press as saying that he doubted the Afghan Armed Forces' ability to defend

the country on their own. You have previously expressed your views on this general's statement. If such a situation does not exist, why did he make such a statement?

[Sharq] This does not mean that if a Soviet general says we do not have the capability to defend ourselves then it should be accepted. For us this idea is the same whether expressed by a Soviet general or a U.S. general. We can definitely tell you that if foreign interference in our internal affairs ends, we have the ability to defend our country.

[Moderator] Esteemed prime minister, despite the fact that a new government has been formed in Afghanistan, foreign interference in Afghan affairs continues. So far as is known, foreign advisers, particularly Pakistani and Arab advisers, not only work in the border areas but also in the central areas. What are your views on this interference?

[Sharq] I told you that reconciliation has been accepted by the people of Afghanistan. We told you that the government and the people of Afghanistan do not want war. But unfortunately, foreign interference is not under our control. They send their advisers with their arms every day. Therefore, we request that they cease this inhuman act and sit down with the Afghans at the negotiating table to discuss the future. What do these foreign advisers see in Afghanistan when they come here? Only blind shelling with no regard for where the shells land and as a result they only see the deaths of a number of miserable and hungry people. I tell you clearly that so far as we and our Soviet friends are concerned we are sincerely implementign the Geneva agreements.

[Moderator] Here is a reporter from West German television. He says that you speak about receiving aid from international sources. Can I ask about your government budget, its sources, and how much foreign aid is included in it?

[Sharq] Our country's economy has become complicated due to the war situation. The major source of our economy comes from the grant-in-aid and humanitarian aid from the Soviet &union. We have plenty of internal resources. The war situation permitting, we can finance our sources. [sentence as heard]

[Moderator] A reporter from the U.S. magazine TIME has a two-part question. First, you as the prime minister failed to attract some well-known and neutral people into your cabinet as you had wanted. It is even reported that you said that you would resign if that goal is not achieved. Are these reports correct? Second, have you left the Ministry of Defense portfolio open for Ahmad Shah Mas'ud or have you indicated to his supporters that they can have this portfolio if they want it?

[Sharq] When the president designated me—in accordance with the Constitution—to form a cabinet, I contacted all well-known Afghans and fortunately, they accepted my offer and joined me in the cabinet. There are 18 members in our cabinet and all of them have the people's confidence and respect. You know that throughout the world when a prime minister forms a cabinet he leaves one or two portfolios vacant. Previously, I told you that we have brought in only those people who believed in national reconciliation. Our government is not prepared to allocate portfolios on political grounds under any circumstances.

Yesterday someone said that I was reserving the portfolio of Islamic Affairs for Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi [leader of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami]. However, we do not monopolize any position for ourselves. We are prepared to give any position to anyone who proves effective in national reconciliation and the cessation of bloodshed. We are even prepared to form the government anew after consultations and deliberations with them. However, we have sent no message to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud or to his supporters about the offer of the Ministry of Defense. We have contacted Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and all other commanders in Afghanistan to ask again that they prepare the ground for reconciliation.

[Moderator] The Italian journalist says, Esteemed Prime Minister, that the policy of openness pertains in the Soviet Union and it has published some facts about past incidents. Is there such a process underway in Afghanistan? For instance, you regard some former leaders such as Nur Muhammad Taraki and Amin and Babrak Karmal as responsible for certain acts or do you want to divulge any mistakes committed recently?

[Sharq] I do not understand in what way perestroyka [restructuring] concerns [as heard] Afghanistan. We are separate countries. You know the Soviet Union has one party and Afghanistan is a multi-party state. I repeat that the policy of our government will not be influenced by any country in any part of the world, whether near or far, large or small.

[Moderator] Doctor [name indistinct], a Spanish journalist says that some time ago a Soviet general was interviewed by the Moscow newspaper OGONEK. What is your official reaction to this interview? Have you read the interview? What is the Afghan reaction?

[Sharq] Another friend also asked about this. If we react to this general or hundreds of journalists [words indistinct]. If you listen to the Voice of America and other Western radios, then thousands of questions like this can arise as they did about the statement of this Soviet general. However, we can also ask a question; for example, when we asked the Soviet Union to help us it was said that the Soviets occupied Afghanistan and incited the nation to fight. Now that we do not need them and they are withdrawing you say that we cannot control the country. I do not know whether you want the Soviet Union troops to leave or not.

[Moderator] The other question from this journalist is: Some of the media call the April Revolution a coup d'etat.

[Sharq] No one can tell someone else whether to call it a coup d'etat or a revolution. It depends on a writer's choice. Because I am a non-party person I do not want to provoke anyone and therefore, I will leave this issue to be decided by history.

[Moderator] This journalist asks another question about the differences between the Khalq and Parcham parties and if these differences have created problems.

[Sharq] This [words indistinct] for years. So far as we are concerned, almost all parties participate in the government. I do not see any differences of opinion between these parties over national reconciliation. Therefore, if I reject [words indistinct] there would be no differing views.

[Moderator] A Swiss journalist asks: Over the past 8 years the Soviet forces have been in Afghanistan and the Soviet Union was involved one way or other in [words indistinct]. Do you object to their presence in Afghanistan?

[Sharq] The relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have a long history. I do not know whether to blame those who have interfered in Afghanistan or those who have helped the people of Afghanistan. [Words indistinct] that Soviet forces came to Afghanistan to occupy it. We have never had hostile relations with the Soviet Union. We were not members of any military pact. We did not have any military base against the Soviet Union and we coexisted as good neighbors. Why should the Soviet Union occupy our country? The two countries' past relations both on international and bilateral issues have been exceedingly friendly. We believe that those who have studied the relationship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union know this very well. However, the questions asked are otherwise. One of the achievements of this relationship is [words indistinct]. Otherwise, reactionary forces would have dominated Afghanistan, forces which even the United States opposes. Thank you.

India

Parliament Approves President's Rule in Nagaland

BK0908130388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Parliament today approved the imposition of president's rule in Nagaland. A statutory resolution in this regard moved by the government was adopted by both houses by a voice vote. In the Rajya Sabha almost the entire opposition walked out in protest against the imposition of president's rule in the state. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, replied to the discussion in the Rajya Sabha and the minister of state for home, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, in the Lok Sabha.

Strongly defending the governor's action in recommending president's rule, Mr Buta Singh said under the circumstances the governor had no other option. A special law and order situation had arisen in the state because of emergency.

The ministers categorically stated in the two houses that instability cannot be allowed in a sensitive border state. Amidst repeated interruptions by the opposition, the ministers regretted that some politicians exploited the people of Nagaland who had voted a single party government in the state only 8 months ago. At no stage the new front had asked the governor for convening the assembly session for a trial of strength. Their only aim was to form the government somehow or the other.

The two ministers categorically assured the members in both houses that the process of bringing the people of Nagaland to the mainstream will continue. In an intervention in the Lok Sabha, the surface transport minister, Mr Rajesh Pilot, hoped that imposition of the president's rule in the state will bring an end to the political instability.

Eight Injured in Bomb Blasts by 'Extremists'

BK0908155888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] In Manipur, eight persons including two policemen were injured in separate incidents of bomb blast in Imphal this afternoon. The bombs were exploded by underground extremists. The injured were rushed to the hospital and the condition of one of them is reported to be serious. The state home minister, Mr (I. Tampok Singh), rushed to the spot and visited the injured in the hospital. The police is investigating.

Akali Dal-L Decides To Align With National Front

BK1008034588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] The Akali Dal-L has decided to align with the National Front of the four national and three regional parties under the leadership of Mr N.T. Rama Rao. Addressing party workers near Jullundur yesterday, the senior Akali Dal-L leader and former finance minister, Mr Balwant Singh, referred to the unity move among the various factions of the Akali Dal and said it is imperative to secure justice for Punjab and also to defend the interests of the state.

INSAT-1C Beams 'Clear Picture' to Earth

BK0808151388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] The multipurpose satellite INSAT-1C, which developed a power snag, has beamed back to earth a clear picture. According to an ISRO release in Bangalore

today, scientists were successful in making the satellite ready for use partially. With this the satellite will be used for meteorological imaging surface.

The release says efforts to rectify the defect in the power pack for restoring full service to the satellite are continuing.

Pakistani President's Election Terms Assessed

BK0708121588 Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Another Ziaul Haq Trick"]

[Text] General Ziaul Haq has been pulling one trick after another from under his military hat to beguile the people of Pakistan and perpetuate his power. His latest attempt came on 29 May when he unceremoniously dismissed the Junejo government, the only "elected" ministry in Pakistan since the general deposed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and grabbed power 11 years ago. He promised fresh elections "within 90 days" as stipulated in the Constitution, but has now fixed the poll date for 16 November. Characteristically, Gen Ziaul Haq has offered no plausible explanation for the delay. And again, he has chosen to ignore the recent Supreme Court ruling and conduct the elections on "non-party" basis, as in 1985. However, unlike in the past, the general has not clamped any ban on political parties, and said they were free to campaign and support individual candidates, who were again free to form political groups after the polls.

This is sheer sophistry, designed to keep the political parties, particularly the organised opposition, at bay. For, under the current laws, the freedom of political association is severely curtailed by requirements of registration. The Pakistan Muslim League, which Gen Ziaul Haq propped up with the support of Mohammad Khan Junejo, whose cooperation he rewarded with premiership, has all but been dismantled. Composed of political non-entities and lightweights who briefly basked in officially bestowed glory, the Muslim League cannot be hoped to be resurrected to benefit the general.

On the contrary, the opposition parties, with Ms Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in the lead, on the current reckoning appear determined to put up a united fight against the military rule. While some of the opposition leaders are planning to challenge the general in the Supreme Court for violation of this own Constitution, he is trying to take country back even on the "one-party", "limited" democracy attempt by President Ayub Khan. Since the late field marshal's days and despite successive military regimes, political parties in Pakistan have shown an amazing capacity to survive and function—even under Gen Ziaul Haq's own rigorous martial law.

The general unwittingly acknowledged the political sentiment and aspirations in Pakistan when he encouraged formation of the Muslim League and break with the partyless concept. The decision to bar the political parties from the poll now appears designed to provoke the opposition to take recourse to confrontation. This would suit Gen Ziaul Haq immensely. He may then well crush the political parties and elements and abandon even a pretence of democracy—unless in the intervening period his gamble of Afghanistan obliges him with a situation that can be claimed to warrant strengthening of the military control.

Political circumstance and the military's greed for power have never allowed democracy to take roots and function in Pakistan. The role successive rulers have taken upon themselves as willing tools of the U.S. interests in the region has precluded the possibility. Officials in Washington have sought to appropriate the credit for exerting pressure on Gen Ziaul Haq to order the 16 November polls. The decade-long close relationship between the two countries would be severely jeopardised if Gen Ziaul Haq did not revive the experiment in "democratic power-sharing", they are reported to have told him. Were the sham, partyless elections, then, order at the bidding of the U.S.? The well-entrenched U.S. interests in the region can be trusted to be guarded by "individuals" rather than organised parties in power, who can be more amenable to suggestions and guidance in client-states like Pakistan. The impending polls may prove no more than another step in the process of strangulation of democracy in that country.

Iran

UN Military Observers Arrive in Tehran

LD1008051288 Tehran IRNA in English 0510 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Five members of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) arrived here Wednesday morning to supervise establishment of cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war.

The team will hold talks with Iranian political and military officials to prepare the ground for arrival of the UN observers force.

The group will be stationed in southern and western areas of the country to supervise military movements until establishment of cease-fire to go into effect at 0300 GMT Aug 20.

Following the declaration of the cease-fire day by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Monday night, Iran's acting commander in chief of the armed forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a statement Tuesday called on Iranian forces throughout war fronts to refrain from any military action but remain on the alert to respond to any possible enemy mischief.

Correspondent Comments on UN Observer Force

LD0908175788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Unidentified correspondent's report from London]

[Text] Following the declaration of 20 August as the formal start of the cease-fire, tonight the UN secretary general announced that the work of investigating the dispatch and methods of the deployment of forces observing the cease-fire between the two countries has started in the United Nations. The Security Council will discuss the methods of the dispatch and deployment of those forces. The UN secretary general has invited 30 member countries to participate in sending observer forces. Apparently a 350-strong observer force from 24 countries will be formed and sent. The cost of these forces has been estimated at $40-70 million annually, and the first term of its mission is to be 6 months.

Following the announcement of the cease-fire date, various commentaries have begun to appear from different parts of the world. Most independent analysts believe that the reasons for Iraq's military attack against the Islamic Republic in September 1980 have not yet been resolved and that any optimism about the end of the war is still premature. Many experts who specialize in Iran-Iraq issues have said that the way to achieve real and lasting peace is very hard, difficult, and lengthy, and that at any time there is the possibility of Iraq's resuming its aggression.

Javier Perez de Cuellar announced that discussions for resolving the difficulties between the two countries under UN auspices and supervision will begin on Thursday, 25 August, in Geneva.

Perez de Cuellar Interviewed on Cease-Fire

LD0908222288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Monday night talked to our correspondent. Responding to a question on the action he will take following the 20 August cease-fire date, the UN secretary general said: As you know, following the cease-fire I will start working to implement Articles 4, 6, 7, and 8 of Resolution No 598. Following this, I will inform the public about what I will do.

In response to a question concerning what guarantees our nation can expect regarding the implementation of the resolution, the secretary general said: The resolution contains many issues, and it has been approved by all members of the Security Council. The Security Council Monday declared its full support for the implementation of the resolution. The Iranian people can be sure that the resolution will definitely be implemented and a cease-fire in force.

In conclusion, our correspondent asked Mr Perez de Cuellar if he had a message for the Iran. He said: First of all, I wish to thank the Iranian Government for the facilities they provided me for over 1 year. The Iranian Government officials always cooperated with me, for which I am most grateful. I would like to tell the Iranian people, who are regarded as brave and with great morale, that I hope that they will live in peace and calm from now on.

Velayati Returns Home, Assesses Cease-Fire

LD1008071388 Tehran IRNA in English 0706 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who represented Iran in 10 days of intensive talks with the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York on a cease-fire in Iraq-Iran war, returned home Wednesday morning.

Speaking to reporters upon arrival Velayati said that in 10 rounds of talks with Perez de Cuellar they had discussed ways and means to execute the U.N. chief's implementation plan on Security Council Resolution 598.

Referring to Iran's cooperative attitude during the talks, he said throughout these talks, started after Tehran accepted the UN resolution on July 18, the Islamic Republic worked closely with Perez de Cuellar on reaching a settlement. On the contrary Iraq was after creating obstacles right after the talks started such as its insistance on face-to-face talks.

However, the problems were removed because of Iran's sincere cooperation and firm stance. This coupled with international pressure made Iraq to drop its request and accept Iran's rational conditions for establishment of cease-fire, he told reporters. This, he said was a major gain for Iran.

Velayati said Perez de Cuellar is after full implementation of the resolution and expressed hope that through continued efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran major steps will be taken towards establishment of a lasting and honorable peace.

On dispatch of a UN delegation to probe recent Iraq deployment of chemical weapons in Iran's northwestern city of Oshnoviyeh, he said preparations had been made to this end.

Ambassador to Paris Cited on Cease-Fire

LD0908185188 Paris Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Interview with Radio France correspondent Fabrice Le Quintrec, on his meeting with Ambassador 'Ali Ahani in Paris, by unidentified announcer; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified announcer] [Passage omitted] Fabrice Le Quintrec, you met the Iranian ambassador to Paris, His Excellency 'Ali Ahani, a short time ago. What did he tell you?

[Le Quintrec] [Passage omitted] The ambassador spoke in his native tongue. He blamed Iraq for the delays in applying Resolution No 598, which Tehran accepted last month. Now that the Iraqi preconditions have been removed, according to Ambassador Ahani, who praised the work of the United Nations and the UN secretary general, we must implement Resolution No 598 completely. This must be done in order to ensure the return of all POW's, to enable neutral observers to do their work, and to establish an impartial commission that will designate the country responsible for starting the conflict.

Thus, as a sign of goodwill, Iran has henceforth decided to cease firing on the Iraqi enemy, but remains ready to defend itself. The Tehran diplomat says he is sure Iraq will be named officially as the aggressor. However, in any case whatever the decision of the UN inquiry, Tehran will accept the commission's verdict.

[Announcer] For the People's Mojahedin, the opponents of the Tehran regime, the announcement of this ceasefire seems like a defeat for Ayatollah Khomeyni. The Mojahedin do not intend to stop their struggle, as their aim is to overthrow the Islamic regime. At least this was what their spokesman, Mr Naziri, told our reporter:

[Begin Naziri recording] Recently, Khomeyni said that accepting peace was like swallowing poison. Consequently, peace marks the beginning of the inevitable burial of the Khomeyni regime. He could not accept peace except in a situation of extreme impotence and in which his regime is dying.

Today millions of Iranians are asking who is responsible for the destruction of the lives and property of millions of people in Iran. There is only one reply. It is Khomeyni who, in the eyes of Iranians today, certainly deserves to be tried and punished. Everyone knows that a just peace was constantly within grasp, but that the Khomeyni regime always kept the fires of this war lit. [end recording] [passage omitted]

KEYHAN on Iraqi Attacks, UN Resolution

PM0808172788 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 28 Jul 88 p 20

[Editorial by Yunes Shokrkhah: "Witnessing Latest Enemy Aggressions: Iraqi Drums of War in Graveyard of Fantasies"]

[Text] Why does the Iraqi regime continue its aggressions despite Iran's acceptance on UN Resolution 598? This is perhaps the most asked question in our country these days. The general reply to this question is that Iraq continues the attacks to gain the upper hand in the negotiations. A deeper look into the latest round of Iraqi attacks, however, reveals another answer.

From that day, 17 September 1980 when Saddam tore up the [1975—FBIS] Algiers Accord until 4 days later when he gave the orders for the occupation of Iranian territory, Saddam many times has talked of Iran's separation and has claimed Khuzestan as his own. There is the famous statement of the Iraqi foreign minister who said that five weak Irans would be better than one strong one. This statement is still remembered. The Saddam regime fought with Iran for 8 years upo orders of the imperialists and fantasized about Iran's partition, but now it is back to square one.

From this angle, two reasons can be seen for the latest round of attacks.

1. Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 came while plans for Iran's partition were at the top of the enemy's efforts list, so acceptance of the resolution stymied its long drawn out plans. Iraq had been armed to the teeth by its allies for this purpose, so acceptance of the resolution was a crushing diplomatic blow to Iraq's vast military programs. The contradictory statements coming from Iraqi leaders following Iran's acceptance indicate this. The trend of these statements from "having doubts about Iran's position" to wanting "direct and face-to-face talks" indicates Iraq's complete confusion over Iran's move. Therefore, the Iraqi aggressions after the acceptance were futile attempts to check the repercussions of Iran's announcement. In reality, by relying on the military faction, Iraq was trying to pale Iran's diplomatic efforts.

2. By bravely accepting the resolution, Iran showed the international family that despite the claims of the world mass media, it does not want war, that Iraq is the true warmonger. The Iraqi regime felt this strongly and so stepped up its efforts to heal its own internal wounds. By continuing its aggressions, the Iraqi regime wants to tell its own people that it will bow down to international pressure from the position of military victory. But, as stated, the latest Iraqi actions indicate deep confusion and a need to feed local public opinion.

Now the brave resistance of the Iranian people has changed directions and the Iraqi regime has received several blows:

The deep spread of national unity in Iran becamne like a cornerstone for the people's presence in the political and military arena and guaranteed the future of the Iranian revolution in such a way as to cut off the hands of any possible Iraqi aggression for a long time. this is where the importance of the people's presence on the war fronts shows itself.

Unlike Iran, the public opinion in Iraq is directed against the regime. the Iraqi people have found out how shallow their regime's peace slogans really were. They are asking themselves why the regime is continuing the attacks despite Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598. A more basic question asked the Iraqi regime is: What has this war gained for Iraq? This is one question for which the regime has no answer.

Looking at the points raised, the Iraqi regime cannot continue its trend of aggressions. The latest acts of aggression are nothing but a sick joke. It is like beating the war drums in the graveyard of Iraq's fantasies. The Iraqi attacks are being repelled by the strong presence of the forces loyal to the Islamic revolution. As mentioned before, continuation of this trend would being about an explosion inside Iraq.

Despite all this, the Islamic forces must maintain their readiness, while getting rid of the enemy's troops. This will enable the Iranian politicians to force Iraq to acept the UN secretary general's proposals with peace of mind. The selection of Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the ruling Iraqi Council to the post of minister of state in charge of foreign affairs, indicates Iraq's desired intention to waiver and avoid carrying out the terms of 598, because Hammadi was Iraq's representative at the Algiers talks. This is why the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry must now warn international circles not to allow Iraq to avoid 598.

The Iraqi regime is now more desperate than ever. This warmongering regime has not only not gained a thing after 8 years of imposing a war on Iran, it will have to be identified as the aggressor to the whole world tomorrow. It will make excuses. Although no one is a stranger to these tactics, it is up to the UN secretary general and all those countries who believe that Resolution 598 is the only solution to this conflict, to deal in an even stronger manner with the Iraqi regime's excuses.

It is hoped that the secretary general will unite the United Nations to deal sternly with any eventual excuses made by the Iraqis, in order to pave the way for the implementation of the resolution. Any unnecessary delay in this move will limit the executive capabilities of the organization.

Commentary on Cease-Fire, Need for Vigilance

LD0908131188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1111 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the copassionate. After 10 weeks of diplomatic negotiations in the United Nations, the secretary general announced a cease-fire date yesterday, 20 August. Following the agreement by Iran and Iraq on direct negotiations, 25 August was set as the date for negotiations between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraqi to begin in Geneva under the supervision of the UN secretary general.

Considering the fact that the implementation of a cease-fire requires the full cooperation and the fulfillment of the two parties' comitments, the secretary general has asked both parties to show restraint. In order to cooperate fully with the secretary general, Mr Velayati has officially announced that Iran will refrain from carrying out any military action during the next few days and until the beginning of the cease-fire. Of course, this does not mean that Iran will not reply to any possible attack by the Iraqi regime.

On the basis of the secretary general's proposal, a 350-strong group will be formed as the forces for supervising peace. These forces, with the necessary means and equipment, are to be situated on the border between the two countries. In his report to the Security Council Mr Perez de Cuellar has pointed out that the UN peace-keeping force will stay in the region for a period of six months, for the time being. [passage omitted]

In light of the announcement of the cease-fire date, it seems that the first step toward peace in the region has been taken. What is certain is that the successful outcome of each stage of Resolution No 598 needs the utmost cooperation. The experience gained from the UN negotiations of the last few weeks has demonstrated that the diplomatic strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is geared toward cooperation aimed at the speedy achievement of peace in the region. In any case, one cannot trust the enemies of Islam, and it is up to the brave fighters of Islam to maintain their alertness and vigilance at all times.

Mo'ayeri on Influence Over Hostage Issue

NC0508171088 Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek 5 Aug 88 p 28

[Excerpts] Iranian Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri said he presented Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou with a written message from the Iranian prime minister.

Speaking to the press, he insisted that Iran, which "has never rejected Resolution No 598," supports the UN secretary general's efforts. [passage omitted]

Referring to the hostage issue, he said that Lebanon is an independent and sovereign state. Iran, however, does have an influence there, but is prepared to use it "only for countries with which it has friendly relations." He explained that this is not the case with the United States, which shot down an Iranian civilian aircraft and keeps Iranian assets frozen.

Referring to reports about executions and confirmation of death sentences, he described this as "natural" and insisted that only those guilty of manslaughter are punished in such a way, adding that "this has not taken place for a long time."

Concerning his recent visit to Turkey, he said he had met with Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal.

President's Message Relayed to Ethiopia, Kenya
LD0608092088 Tehran IRNA in English 0835 GMT 6 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Afro-Asian Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam presented messages of President 'Ali Khamene'i to presidents of Ethiopia and Kenya in Addis Ababa and Nairobi over the past two days.

President's message was delivered to his Kenyan counterpart President Daniel Arap Moi by Sheykh ol-Eslam in Nairobi on Friday.

President Khamene'i in his message explained Iran's stand towards the Iraq-imposed war and issues relating to the UN Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war. It also dealt with the recent Iraqi aggressions against Iran and Iraq's hindering of the implementation of the resolution.

President Moi praised Iran's stand and expressed regrets over the recent developments which delay establishment of peace. He stressed he would strive for immediate establishment of peace and removal of the existing obstacles. The first move he said was observing of the cease-fire to be followed by other steps.

On Tehran-Nairobi ties, Moi expressed the hope that the Kenyan Embassy in Tehran will start operation shortly thus providing better grounds for further expansion of relations.

In a meeting with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam on Thursday afternoon, Sheykh ol-Eslam discussed latest development in the Iraq-Iran war and Tehran-Addis Ababa ties.

On the Iraq-Iran war Haile Mariam said that his country has clearly and repeatedly stated that Iraq started the war in pursuance of its expansionist goals and on behalf of the U.S. and the Arab reactionaries.

Refuting Iraq's peace claims, he said that so far Iran was accused of being a war monger and the one refusing a cease-fire. However, the developments after Iran's acceptance of the Resolution 598 on July 18, disclosed the real nature of the Baghdad regime and its allies who see their interests in the prolongation of the war.

Haile Mariam denounced Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons against Iran and bombardment of cities and residential areas.

In conclusion, he reiterated his country's support for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Khamene'i Receives Message From PDRY President
LD0808204288 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—Charge d'affaires of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) Ahmad Abu Bakr met acting foreign minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati here today and submitted a message for President 'Ali Khamene'i from his PDRY counterpart.

In the meeting, the South Yemeni official stressed his country's interest to expand its ties with the Islamic Republic.

Khamene'i Meets With Departing Algerian Envoy
LD1008101588 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10, IRNA—Algerian Ambassador to Tehran Cherif Derbale met with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Wednesday morning to bid farewell.

Expressing satisfaction with his service in Tehran Derbale said that the Iranian people have gone through one of the most difficult periods of their history and a promising future is awaiting them. Through their determination and strong will the Iranian people will successfully handle the task of reconstruction, he told the president.

The Algerian diplomat also announced readiness of President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria to cooperate for the interests of the two Muslim nations of Iran and Algeria.

The president referring to the victorious 1979 Islamic Revolution said that the Iranian revolution gave people the power to withstand difficulties.

He added that the Iranian nation looks forward to future and reconstruction of the country and safeguarding the revolution. To this end Iran welcomes cooperation and strengthening of relations with friendly Islamic countries, among them Algeria, stressed the president.

President Khamene'i wished success for the outgoing Algerian ambassador in his future missions. He was asked to convey president's warm greetings to President Bendjedid and people of Algeria.

Australian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks
LD1008061188 Tehran IRNA in English 0606 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 10, IRNA—Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade William Hayden arrived here this morning heading a delegation. He was welcomed at the airport by Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

Hayden said on his arrival that expansion of Canberra-Tehran ties and commercial exchanges would be discussed during his visit. He will also discuss Australia's participation in Iran's reconstruction after the war.

Hayden expressed Australia's pleasure on the implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, saying that his country played an active role in this regard.

Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 6 Aug

OW0708064288 Tokyo KYODO in English 0514 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, KYODO—Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama arrived here Saturday to meet with Iranian officials in an attempt to promote ceasefire in the Gulf war proposed by United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Kuriyama, a special envoy of Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, met with three top officials in charge of foreign affairs soon after arrival to discuss Iran's reconstruction. He is expected to deliver a letter from Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to parliametary speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sunday.

Kuriyama leaves here Monday morning for Baghdad for talks with Iraqi leaders. He will then go to New York to meet with Perez de Cuellar Thursday and to Washington Friday for talks with U.S. officials on the outcome of his meetings with leaders of the two warring countries.

Kuriyama originally planned to visit Iran this spring but the visit was postponed when Iraq began attacking Iranian cities.

Meets With Majlis Speaker

OW0808035588 Tokyo KYODO in English 0249 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8 KYODO—Iranian Parliament Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Sunday expressed a hope that Japan will continue efforts to contribute to achieving a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and peace in the Persian Gulf region.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, also Iran's supreme military commander, voiced the hope when he met Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama, who arrived here Saturday as a special envoy of Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno.

Kuriyama handed a letter from Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita to Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Japanese envoy told Hashemi-Rafsanjani that Japan wants to help materialize the ceasefire and peace in the Gulf region not only through diplomatic efforts but also through financial support and dispatch of civilian personnel to assist in U.N. peace efforts, Japanese sources said.

During the meeting, the Iranian leader emphasized that his country is earnestly hoping for an immediate ceasefire, the sources said.

Kuriyama is due to leave here for Baghdad on Monday for talks with Iraqi leaders and will later go to New York to meet U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Foreign Minister Uno dispatched the envoy in an attempt to promote the U.N. chief's efforts for a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

As for Japan-Iran relations, Hashemi-Rafsanjani showed a positive stance toward the promotion of bilateral ties, saying that he thinks there are no obstacles between the two countries, the Japanese sources said.

Kuriyama and his party also met Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Mansuri on Saturday and promised that Japan will render the utmost assistance toward Iran's national reconstruction after the Gulf war. The Japanese side proposed expanding technological cooperation, the sources said.

Both sides also agreed to promote exchanges of high-ranking officials between the two countries, they said.

In particular, both sides agreed to put priority on preparing for a visit by Foreign Minister Uno to Iran, the sources said.

Japanese Foreign Minister To Visit 20 Aug

OW1008013988 Tokyo KYODO in English 0115 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 10 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno will visit Tehran on August 20 at the invitation of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday.

The UN-initiated ceasefire in the Gulf War is to begin on August 20 and, therefore, Uno may be the first high-ranking official from a Western country to visit Iran after the implementation of the ceasefire in the 8-year-old war.

Details of UNO's itinerary during his visit to Iran remain to be decided, the Iranian spokesman said.

His talks here with Iranian officials are expected to cover ceasefire-related regional problems as well as Iran-Japan relations, including Japan's economic and industrial cooperation in Iran's reconstruction after the war with Iraq.

Earlier in the day in Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita told the Diet (Parliament) that he is ready to send Uno to both Iran and Iraq after talks on how Japan can help the two countries rehabilitate themselves after the war.

Takeshita, however, stopped short of saying when the foreign minister might go to the two countires, only saying that he would dispatch him at the "proper" time.

Omani State Minister Continues Visit to Tehran

Meets With Nabavi, Rafiqdust

JN0708154688 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Aug 88

[Text] As part of his current visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with His Excellency Engineer Behzad Nabavi, the Iranian heavy industries minister.

During the meeting, they discussed relations between the Sultanate and Iran and ways to bolster cooperation between them in the industrial field.

Afterward, his excellency the minister of state for foreign affairs met with His Excellency Mohsen Rafiqdust, Iranian minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. They exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual interest.

Meets Oil, Defense Ministers

JN0808151888 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] As part of his current visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Excellency Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, has met with Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh. His excellency has also met with Iranian Defense Minister Mohammed Hoseyn Jalali. Discussions during the two meetings covered bilateral relations and ways to further develop them, as well as a number of other issues of shared interest.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Israeli Attacks on Sidon

LD0908183388 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—The spokesman for the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry here today strongly condemned the repeated savage attacks of the Al-Quds [Jerusalem] occupying regime on the southern Lebanese town of Sidon and described them as a shameful crime against the oppressed Muslims of Palestine and Lebanon.

The new crime is in line with the brutal suppression of the uprising in occupied Palestine and clearly reveals the fact that the Zionist regime's aim is to totally annihiliate Palestinian Muslims, said the spokesman.

Iran re-emphasizing its solidarity with the oppressed Lebanese and Palestinian peoples believes that determined resistance and unity among all Muslim forces in the region are necessary for countering the Al-Quds occupying regime's aggressions.

Warplanes of the Zionist regime repeatedly attacked Sidon today, martyring and wounding a considerable number of women and children.

Commentary on U.S. Moves Over ICAO Inquiry

LD0908133088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1114 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Commentary entitled "The Continuation of Investigations of ICAO Team"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday the ICAO expert team, dispatched to carry out a series of investigations as to how the Iranian passenger aircraft was downed, requested that the team should also inspect the "Vincennes" warship. This request comes at a time when a spokesman for the U.S. Forces Central Command, who is in charge of the forces in the Persian Gulf, denied any knowledge of this request. Moreover, Washington also has not come up with any specific views in this connection.

The statement issued by the ICAO concerning the downing of the Iranian passenger aircraft, emphasizes the cooperation of all countries with the ICAO team. In any case, it does not appear that the Reagan administration can prevent the ICAO team from boarding the "Vincennes" in spite of its desire that it should not. The Pentagon is trying very hard to gradually admit to a series of facts—such as the slow speed of the airliner and the fact that it was in the process of climbing—before the ICAO report is issued. [passage omitted]

In spite of the fact that these truths have now become known, the Reagan administration has not sat still and, while raising the issue of paying compensation and linking the issue of the aircraft's downing with that of the war, and the dispatch of George Bush to the Security Council, it has done its best to manipulate public opinion inside and outside the United States and to prevent the Security Council from taking a definite position on the issue.

Due to these maneuvers and to the influence exerted by Washington within the Security Council, in the final analysis the council refrained from adopting a definite position toward the Reagan administration and resorted merely to expressing its regret over this tragedy, a horrific crime.

Evidence clearly shows that the missile was fired in the direction of the Iranian aircraft, even though the details of the aircraft were clearly distinguishable on the "Vincennes" radar equipment and it was obvious there was no danger to the crew of the "Vincennes." In any case, in spite of initial shortcomings, the UN Security

Council can rely on the results of the ICAO team's investigations and on the latest admissions of U.S. officials, and make some realistic decisions in this connection.

Commentary on Soviet Withdrawal From Kabul

NC0908094888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's research group]

[Text] Reports indicate that in the course of implementing the Geneva accords on Afghanistan, Soviet forces started their withdrawal from Kabul yesterday, Monday. This is the first time that something is being said about the withdrawal of Soviet military units stationed in Kabul, and it comes at a time when, according to Soviet sources, the first phase of the withdrawal of Soviet soldiers is to end on 15 August. By this date half of the Soviet forces will have left Afghanistan's territory.

In response to reports of the return of Soviet soldiers to Afghanistan that were disseminated after the intensification of the Muslim revolutionaries' attacks on Kabul, the same sources said that the fresh units arriving in Afghanistan are to replace those soldiers whose military service has been completed. This does not mean that the number of soldiers in Afghanistan is increasing, they added.

The commencement of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Kabul has been announced at a time when some Western countries have decreased the numbers of their embassy personnel in Kabul and are attempting to evacuate their citizens from that country following the increased recent attacks by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries on the Afghan capital. Observers of Afghanistan affairs believe that this step, which is said to have come after the intensification of the continuous shelling of Kabul and under the pressure of the coordinated operations by the Afghan mujahidin around this city, raises the question of the Kabul regime's capability of exercising security control over the Afghan capital.

It appears that this and the long-lasting schism in the Najibullah government, which has recently deepened with the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan, have given rise to Soviet concern. This was what made the Soviet foreign minister repeat the Soviet Union's allegations that Pakistan is violating the Geneva accords during his meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan in Moscow last week. Rejecting the Soviet foreign minister's accusations of Pakistan's noncooperation in implementing the Geneva accords, the Pakistani foreign minister said: Pakistan has implemented the plan for UN experts to visit 30 areas, and the UN investigations have not proven anything regarding the illegal transport of arms for the mujahidin forces or the existence of training centers on Pakistani territory.

Diplomatic sources believe that there are clear signs of schisms within the Kabul regime. Other sources point out that recent reports say the Soviet Embassy has disagreed with Najibullah's wish to remove Gulabzoy, leader of the Parcham faction, from the PDPA.

It also appears that despite the announcement on the commencement of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Kabul, the Soviet command stationed in Afghanistan is dissatisfied with the quality of some of the forces that will be defending the Afghan capital and some other cities.

According to political observers, all these developments justified Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Afghanistan that started on Thursday [4 August]. Even though no reports are available on the topics discussed between the Soviet foreign minister and Kabul regime officials, it appears they discussed ways to confront the political-military dimensions of the recent victories by the mujahidin in the occupation and siege of a number of Afghan cities—due to unity and coordination among the Afghan mujahidin. At the same time, Sheverdnadze's visit emphasizes the continuation of Moscow's support for the Kabul regime's leadership. This falls within the framework of the Kremlin's strategy of supporting friendly regimes, even after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Political observers believe that the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Kabul, which included talks with military officials in addition to meetings with political officials in Kabul, is not without relation to the new plan by the Afghan mujahidin to form a regular army in Afghanistan's northern areas in order to occupy the cities in this region in tandem with the withdrawal of the Soviet forces. Also, the sensitivity of the issue should be noted in view of reports of the Soviet Union's wish to continue its domination over Afghanistan's strategic areas in north. It also increases the belief that the pace of the withdrawal of the Soviet forces will be slowed, despite the announcement by that country's military sources to the contrary.

At any rate, it is clear that the presence of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan is the most important obstacle to the sovereignty of the Afghan nation. For this reason, the complete and unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan is considered as the first step toward the lasting solution of the Afghanistan problem. What has become obvious during the past few years and during the heroic struggles of the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries is that the unity of the Islamic forces has been the overriding factor in their victory and it is definitely the continuation of this unity that will thwart the plots by their enemies.

Researcher Successfully Tests Laser Beam

LD0808164688 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—An Iranian researcher, Saeed Sowti [name as received], has built and successfully tested a carbon dioxide laser beam after four years

of hard work and experiments, announced the scientific and industrial research organization here today.

The laser beam, a carbon-dioxide type with continuous ray and longitudinal discharge, is useful for surgery as well as military purposes.

Various tests of the laser, developed in Iran for the first time, showed heating effects of the beam on samples of paper, wood and brick.

Bill Increases Penalties for Draft Dodgers

LD0808201588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Aug 88

[Text] Following repetead popular demands and to ensure the execution of Islamic justice, the Supreme Council for War Support has approved a bill to increase punishment for draft dodgers and AWOL draftees. The Central News Unit reports that the council announced at the end of yesterday's session that the bill will apply to draftees who do not contact the appropriate authorities after 9 September.

According to the bill, those who assisted anyone to be exempt from the draft through cheating or counterfeit documents or who have employed them will also be punished.

Volunteer Forces Continue To Go to Fronts

Forces From Semnan, Shahrud

LD0908171488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] In continuation of departure of popular volunteer forces for the fronts to defend the borders of Islamic homeland, this afternoon large groups of fresh popular forces left Shahrud, Semnan, and Meybod for the western and southern borders of the country.

Units From Fars, Khuzestan

LD1008122088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] In line with the extensive presence of various strata of people at the fronts, a group of the tribal people from Khomar, together with volunteer forces from Fars Province, warrior popular forces from Khuzestan Province, and a military-technical team of the reconstruction logistic-engineering headquarters from Hamadan and Zanjan, were deployed to the fronts today to guard the borders of our country.

Commission Head on Status of Iraqi POW's

LD0908195388 Tehran IRNA in English 1908 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—The number of Iraqi POWS seeking asylum in the Islamic Republic has doubled since Iran accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for ceasefire in the Iraqi-imposed war, said head of Iraqi POWS Commission Mohammad 'Ali Nazaran Monday.

Nazaran, in an interview published by Persian daily ETTELA'AT Tuesday, said that a U.N. team which recently visited Iran was commissioned not only to hold talks on exchange of POWS between Iran and Iraq, as stipulated by U.N. Resolution 598, but also to see to the welfare of Iraqi POWS in Iran.

The Islamic Republic has observed Islamic regulations regarding treatment of POWS and this explains why POW camps throughout the country have always been open to all international organizatons, he said.

The official said that the U.N. team after visiting six POW camps in Tehran and talks with Iraqi POWS had expressed satisfaction with their welfare and had lauded the Islamic Republic for its humane behaviour towards them.

He said Iranian officials in charge of POW camps had presented the U.N. team with documented reports and evidence which belie allegations of International Red Cross officials that they did not observe more than 7,331 Iraqi POWS during their second round of visit to POW camps in Iran.

Nazaran enumerated the priorities for exchanging POWS as follows:

1—Disabled POWS, including those in critical condition and the incurable

2—Aged POWS, over 60 years and above

3—Youth under 16 years of age

4—All POWS should be exchange based on date of their captivity.

Nazaran, listing the afore-said points in order of priority said, in this regard the Islamic Republic calls on international bodies that it will not tolerate any kind of sabotage on the part of Iraq.

He said Iraqi POWS have been provided with all sorts of facilities, and cited the formation of cultural committees at POW camps, which he said enable the POWS to engage in such activities as art, painting, handicrafts, theater and sports as well as an abundance of books on various topics.

The POWS' work of art have even been displayed in international exhibitions held here, said the official noting that Iran fulfills the spiritual needs of POWS by taking them on pilgrimage to Imam Reza's (A.S) shrine in Mashhad and also to Qom, said Nazaran.

So far the POWS have held 800 Qoran recitation competitions, while in outdoor activities they have actively participated in several sports contests, he said.

To date the Islamic Republic has helped over 13,000 POWS to become literate by holding regular classes and has so far provided a total of 530,000 hours of teacher service, said Nazaran noting that there are 120 libraries at the camps containing nearly 166,000 volumes of books. In addition 91 workshops have established to train POWS in various crafts, he added.

In 1987, the Islamic Republic handed a nine-point plan to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on the exchange of POWS and announced its readiness to exchange on an equal basis prisoners under 16 years and over 50 years of age, the disabled, critically injured, doctors and social workers, said the official.

The ICRC promised to consider the plan, but it was put away and never reflected in the world media due to Iraq's refusal, said Nazaran noting that Iran for its part disclosed its proposal to the world, which was well received.

"We shall no more release the POWS unilaterally", he stressed and warned the Iraqi regime for its calling of elderly Iranian citizens as "combatants" or "prisoners", when the truth is they were kidnapped by Iraqi troops from bordering villages.

Baghdad cannot exchange those who were kidnapped against all international rules, and should immediately release them, he made it clear.

So far the Red Cross has ignored the issue and contrary to the Geneva accord has not protested against the Iraqi regime's misdeeds, said Nazaran concluding that from now on the Islamic Republic will monitor every single move of the ICRC and Baghdad in this respect.

Foreign Journalists View Victims of Toxic Gas

LD0608182388 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 6 Aug 88

["Foreign Mediamen Shocked at Iraq's Gruesome Chemical Crimes"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan, Aug. 6, IRNA—A group of foreign mediamen including reporters and cameramen Friday visited the chemically bombed residential quarters of Oshnoviyeh and saw victims of Iraq's gruesome crimes.

A local official told reporters that a total of 2265 Kurdish civilians were maimed by the Iraqi regime's toxic bombardment of the northwestern town on August 2 and 3, out of whom he said 260 have been hospitalised in Orumiyeh, Tabriz and Miandoab.

Between 400 to 500 families in the southwestern part of the town were affected by the toxics and a large number of orchards and farm lands have become useless due to the Iraqi chemical attacks, he added.

Majlis deputy from Naqade and Oshnoviyeh 'Abdolrahman Barzanji [name as received], in a talk to Finland radio and the REUTERS news agency, said that if Saddam's (Husayn) conviction at the U.N. was serious, he would not have launched a new crime only 24 hours after the announcement.

The reporters visited several victims of the crime at hospitals here and were told that Iraqi "Gagarin" aircraft deployed mustard and nerve gases.

The effects of these internationally banned lethal gases, which the Iraqi regime continues to deploy indiscriminately are devasting to both human life and environment. The foreign mediamen were particularly moved by the critical conditions of two women and several infants writhing in agony.

The reporter of Italian television Channel 1, expressed shock and horror on the use of the deadly chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime. Calling for severe condemnation and immediate banning of toxic arms, he promised to report his observations and display films worldwide on the tragedy. He verified that all the victims he met were civilians and the region bombed by Iraqi warplanes was absolutely a non-military area.

Emboldened by global silence the Iraqi regime has continued its chemical attacks against Iran since the last 5 years and has even used these lethal substances against its own Kurdish population.

Last year on June 28 in one of its worst toxic attacks on Iranian soil, the Ba'thist regime had inflicted several hundred civilian casualties in Sar Dasht, while the Halabjah chemical holocaust (March 18) against its own citizens, which claimed over 12,000 victims has ensured Iraqi rulers eternal damnation in history.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Operations Against Mojahedin

LD0908144088 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, Aug. 9, IRNA—A total of 1,127 vehicles and armoured hardware were destroyed and a large haul of military hardware seized and major elements of the anti-revolutionary grouplet known as Mojahedin-e (monafeqin) Khalq Organization (MKO) captured during the Muslim combatants heroic Marsad (Ambuscade) operations.

Commander of Be'that Fourth Corps of Bakhtaran announcing the above in a talk with IRNA Monday said of the thousands of antirevolutionaries killed in the operations so far 1,734 have been identified and their organizational ranks and even assumed names discovered.

Iran's Muslim combatants launched a major attack codenamed Marsad (Ambuscade) on July 27 to clear the general region of Eslamabad-e Gharb of the invading joint MKO-Iraqi troops.

The MKO terrorists carried military equipment in their invasion several times as much the number of their forces, said the commander adding some 200 Brazilian-made armoured personnel carriers, German vehicles, French-made anti-aircraft missiles as well as technical-electronic facilities proved the West's investment in the plot hatched against the Islamic Republic.

Adverting to the MKO defeat in the operations, the commander said the organization's political-military power has been totally destroyed. The heightening of confusion in the terrorists' ranks and the MKO leaders' confessions and their heaping of insults on one another, is sufficient proof of the Muslim combatants' heavy blows, he said.

Referring to the possibility that some monafeqin may have fled to Iraq and some may be still hiding in the region, the commander said about 230 MKO terrorists have so far been arrested or killed in Kerend-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab regions during 137 reconnaissance missions, since the Marsad operations. Efforts for finding the remnants of the MKO are underway, he stressed.

Iraqi Aircraft Violate Airspace

LD1008104888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Intruding aircraft of the warmongering regime of Iraq violated the airspace over Piranshahr, Behbahan, Gachsaran, Aqa Jari, and the port of Bandar-e Khomeyni this morning. The aircraft of the Iraqi regime broke the sound barrier as they left the area.

Air Force, Navy Reconnoiter Persian, Oman Gulfs

LD0908171588 Tehran IRNA in English 1609 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 9, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Monday.

Iranian naval units in addition to protecting Iranian islands and oil rigs in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterday, closely monitored movement of four enemy vessels in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway and Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah oil platforms.

Pakistan

Minister Denies Gandhi Assassination Allegation

BK0908163688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Pakistan has rejected as totally baseless the Indian allegations about Islamabad's complicity in an alleged conspiracy to assassinate Indian leaders.

Speaking on four identical adjournment motions in the Senate today, Interior Minister Nasim Ahmad Ahir described the allegations as a part of a regrettable propaganda campaign to malign Pakistan. He expressed regret over the identical statements made by the Indian minister of state for home affairs in both houses of Indian Parliament a week ago, making false accusations that Pakistan was involved in an alleged plot hatched on Indian soil by Indian nationals to assassinate the Indian prime minister and the home minister.

The interior minister asserted that the hollowness of the Indian allegations is borne out by the fact that at the request of India, Pakistan had blacklisted and banned from entering the country the persons described as the most important contacts in the alleged conspiracy. He said instead of appreciating the step, India has started to repeat old accusations that these persons are in Pakistan. At India's request, Islamabad has also banned the entry into Pakistan of those overseas Sikhs who, India suspects, harbor criminal intentions. Citing examples, the minister said India has not been able to prove the allegations that Pakistan is providing assistance and supplying arms and training to Sikh extremists.

The interior minister said as a responsible member of the international community, Pakistan fully respects the principles of civilized relations among nations and greatly respects leaders of all nations. We could never think of anything which might cause any harm to any Indian leaders. The Pakistani Government hopes that the responsible quarters in India will refrain from making such mischievous and baseless allegations.

The interior minister reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to principles of noninterference in internal affairs of other countries. He said since Pakistan scrupulously observes the policy of noninterference in internal affairs of other countries, it would not like to see any country interfering in its own domestic affairs. In this context, the interior minister said we consider it highly reprehensible the intensification in India's interference in Pakistan's internal affairs, especially in fanning the separatist feelings in Sind and other parts of the country.

The interior minister reiterated Pakistan's offer to India that the two countries should pledge through an accord that they will not allow their respective territories to be used for activities against each other's domestic peace, stability, or territorial integrity. He said Pakistan is also ready to bilaterally declare with India that the two countries will respect each other's solidarity and territorial integrity. He said Pakistan is willing to go even

further in condemning the separatist movements. He questioned why India is showing reluctance in accepting this most appropriate proposal. He said that high-level Indian officials should particularly desist from making irresponsible statements as it harms mutual goodwill and the desire of the two people for the establishment of peace. He reiterated Pakistan's desire to normalize relations with India and said Islamabad will not abandon this policy. The interior minister expressed the hope that India will also demonstrate similar sentiments.

Earlier, 10 members took part in this debate and condemned the irresponsible statements the Indian leaders have made to incite anti-Pakistan feelings to distract people's attention from their own domestic problems. They underscored the need for greater defense preparedness and vigilance to meet the threats posed by India. [passage omitted]

More on Ziaul Haq's Remarks on Soviet Withdrawal
BK0908153888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that according to the latest information, the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan is continuing according to schedule and he is satisfied with the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan.

Talking informally to newsmen on arrival at the Lahore Airport from Islamabad this morning, he said the statement he made a few days ago about the arrival of a fresh Soviet contingent in Afghanistan was not mere speculation but was based on reliable information. He added that he had made this statement only so the public could be informed.

Answering the question of whether he will reconsider the decision of holding elections on a non-party basis, he said his viewpoint on this has been published in the form of an interview in the newspapers. [passage omitted]

Ziaul Haq Welcomes Cease-Fire in Iran-Iraq War
BK1008042088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed confidence that the end of the fighting between Iran and Iraq will greatly help in initiating an exemplary era of brotherhood and mutual cooperation in the Islamic world. In a statement issued in Islamabad yesterday, he said that the cease-fire between the two brotherly countries is an historic event. Expressing his overwhelming happiness, the president appreciated the courage, spirit, and prudence displayed by the Iranian and Iraqi leaders in their decision. He thanked UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar for this success, which is virtually unmatched in present-day history.

Nuclear Energy Self-Sufficiency Plan Prepared
BK0908113488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The Senate today adopted a motion expressing its gratitude to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq for his address to the house on the 20th of last month in which he announced the date for elections. Seven members took part in the discussions before the minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Wasim Sajjad, wound up the debate.

During question hour, the house was informed that Pakistan has drawn up a comprehensive plan of action for indigenization of its nuclear program to achieve self-reliance to meet its needs for nuclear energy. The minister for justice pointed out that foreign countries were not willing to supply nuclear plants to Pakistan on political grounds insisting that it should first sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He reiterated Pakistan's stand not to do so unilaterally till India also signs the treaty.

The finance minister, Dr Mahbubul Haq, told the house that a new tax evasion ordinance would be promulgated this month to help stricter enforcement of tax laws and prosecution. The house has adjourned to meet again on Thursday.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Departs 9 Aug
BK0908091888 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Aug 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, has described his talks with Pakistani leaders as very useful and said these would further cement bilateral relations. He was talking to newsmen, before his departure, at Islamabad Airport after a brief visit to Pakistan.

Briefs

Federal Minister Sworn In

Mr Mustafa Sadiq was sworn in as a federal minister in Islamabad today. He will have the portfolio of public affairs. The oath was administered by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq at a simple ceremony at the Presidency. [Excerpt] [*BK0808112888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Aug 88*]

1987 Narcotics Seizures

Various narcotics control organizations in Pakistan seized almost 5,500 kg of heroin, almost 8,000 kg of opium, and more than 158,000 kg of hemp last year. The Narcotics Control Board said in Islamabad yesterday that Pakistan has been internationally accepted as a country that has largely contained narcotics trafficking. The board spokesman said that the success has been achieved by carrying out several major raids and through the help of intelligence sources and various Pakistani agencies. [Text] [*BK1008082688 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 10 Aug 88*]